21 JUNE 1988



JPRS Report

Near East & South Asia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

JPRS-NEA-87-001, 2 JANUARY 1987 -

JPRS-NEA-87-041, 6 APRIL 1987

PART I

19990510 175

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SPRINGFIELD, VA. 22161

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JPRS-NEA-87-001

2 JANUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

REGIONA	AL AFFAIRS	
	Recent Trends in Gulf Contracting Market Analyzed (Henri 'Azzam; AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL, Nov 86)	:
	ARAB AFRICA	
TUNISIA		
	Communist Party Leader Discusses Elections (Mohamed Harmel Interview; AL-TARIQ AL-JADID, 1 Nov 86)	13
	Progressive Socialist Assembly Leader on Elections (Ahmed Nejib Chabbi Interview; AL-TARIQ AL-JADID, 8 Nov 86)	16
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Anti-Illiteracy Campaign in Dhi Qar Examined (Basim 'Atiyah Interview; AL-THAWRAH, 5 Oct 86)	19
;	Reporters Observe Shelling, Fierce Fighting (Ibrahim al-Barjawi; AL-TADAMUN, 1-7 Nov 86)	21
ISRAEL		
	Japan Now Country's Largest Asian Market (Dan Halpern; THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST, No 42, Oct 86)	25

	Rubinstein Appointed Cabinet Secretary (THE JERUSALEM POST, 3 Nov 86)	29
	1 Manufacturing Doggrihed	30
	National Energy Plan Outlined (Moshe Shachal, P. Glueckstern; THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST, No 42, Oct 86)	35
	Plans for Development of Oil Shale Program Outlined (Joseph Yerushalmi; THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST, No 42, Oct 86)	44
	Water Supply System, Electricity Production Detailed (Yigal Kedar; THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST, No 42, Oct 86)	49
*	SAUDI ARABIA	
N.,	Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Interviewed (Muhammad al-'Ali al-Fayiz Interview; AL-TIJARAH, Sep 86)	57
	Joint Military Industries To Protect Gulf (AL-HAWADITH, 7 Nov 86)	71
	Agricultural Projects Aspire Toward Self-Sufficiency (AL-MUSTAQBAL, 8 Nov 86)	74
-	SYRIA	
	Military Support From USSR Discussed in Yugoslav Publication (Miroslav Lazanski; DANAS, 4 Nov 86)	77
	Public Transport Problems in Damascus Reviewed (TISHRIN, 29 Sep 86)	80
	Buses Suffer Disrepair, Breakdowns, by Sami Karkutli Capital Taxi Fleet Condition	80 85
	Al-Suwayda' Grape Farmers Protest Lack of Official Pricing (Jamal 'Amir; TISHRIN, 29 Sep 86)	88
	Briefs Energy Crisis Reported	91
	SOUTH ASIA	
	AFGHANISTAN	
	Bagrami Development Progress Viewed (Nooria Kazem; KABUL NEW TIMES, 23 Sep 86)	92

		•
	Progress in Land Reform in Badakhshan	
	(KABUL NEW TIMES, 15 Sep 86)	.94
INDIA		
•	And look on Course O. W. G. Aman D. A.	
	Analyst on Concern Over U.S. AWACS to Pakistan (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 7, 8 Nov 86)	95
•	Holm From Coming United	
	Help From Soviet Union Indo-U.S. Defense Ties Threatened	95
	indo-0.5. Defense files infeatened	96
	Pakistan Reported Eager for More U.S. Planes	
	(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 10 Nov 86)	97
	Paper Reports Gandhi Interview With BBC	
	(THE TELEGRAPH, 5 Nov 86)	00
	(1 1	98
	Correspondent on UK Bid To Sell India LCA Engines	•
	(K. N. Malik; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 11 Nov 86)	9 9
	Gandhi Reported Eager To End Stalemate With PRC	
	(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 11 Nov 86)	100
	Indo-Soviet Protocol on Coal Signed in New Delhi	
	(PATRIOT, 9 Nov 86)	101
	Indo-Soviet Trade Protocol Envisages Increased Trade	
	(PATRIOT, 13 Nov 86)	102
	Increased Prospects of Foreign Callabanatic No. 1	
	Increased Prospects of Foreign Collaboration Noted (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 6 Nov 86)	102
	(or no heady, the himber o hov out seemed as a seemed	103
	Report on Singh's 4 November Activities in Athens	
	(K. K. Katyal; THE HINDU, 5 Nov 86)	104
	Gandhi, Kashmir Leader Pledge To Work Together	
	(Yusuf Jameel; THE TELEGRAPH, 7 Nov 86)	106
	Novy Administration in Varhain Election Dl 1	
	New Administration in Kashmir, Elections Planned	107
	(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 10 Nov 86)	107
	Analyst Writes on Opening of Parliament	
	(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 4 Nov 86)	108
		200
•	Congress-I Seeks To Bring Dissidents Back Into Party	
	(THE HINDU, 5 Nov 86)	109
	Reportage on Resignation of Congress-I President	
	(THE STATESMAN, 13 Nov 86; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 14 Nov 86)	110
	Few Details Given	110
	Gandhi Handling of Case, Editorial	110 112
		114
	- c - 3	
	5	

	Opposition Warns Gandhi Against Encouraging Gurkhas (THE TELEGRAPH, 6 Nov 86)	114
	Opposition Parties Tell Stand on Gurkha Policy (THE STATESMAN, 12 Nov 86)	115
	CPI Leader on Gurkha Issue, Other Matters (THE HINDU, 12 Nov 86)	116
	CPI-ML Seeks To Fight Punjab Communalism (THE STATESMAN, 4 Nov 86)	117
	CPI-M Dissidents Want Merger With Marxist CP (THE STATESMAN, 13 Nov 86)	118
	New Farming Methods Bring Major Production Increase (THE STATESMAN, 4 Nov 86)	119
PAKIST	AN	
	Briefs Cultural Agreement With China PRC Defense University Delegation Population Planning Pact	120 120 120

/9986

JPRS-NEA-87-002 6 JANUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

REGIONAL AFFAIRS	** ; *
Decline in Value of Maghreb Currencies (Samir Gharbi; JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE, Sep-Oct 86)	1
ARAB AFRICA	
ALGERIA	٠
Interministerial Group Formed for Infrastructure Maintenance (EL MOUJAHID, 1 Oct 86)	3
Illegal Commodity Hoarding Discovered (EL MOUJAHID, 23 Sep 86)	5
MAURITANIA	
Measures To Ease Racial Tension Deemed Ineffective (AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL, 12 Nov 86)	8
MOROCCO	
Possibility of Stagflation in Moroccan Economy (Jacques Vignes; JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE, Sep-Oct 86)	10
SUDAN	
Briefs Weapons as Gifts Cooking Oil Tariffs Cooking Oil Shortage	12 12 13

	Draft Laws Approved More Expatriates Encouraged Attempts at Party Reconciliation	13 13 14
TUNISIA		
	Briefs	15
	Palestinians Visit Communist Headquarters	1.7
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Commander of II Corps Discusses Recent Battle ('Abd-al-Wahhab al Qaysi; AL-DUSTUR, 3 Nov 86)	16
KUWAIT		
	Current Internal Political Situation Assessed (AL-DUSTUR, 3 Nov 86)	19
	Plan To Increase National Manpower (ARAB TIMES, 18 Nov 86)	23
	Briefs Anticipated AWACS Purchase Reduced Participation in Organizations	24 24
OMAN		
	Ministry of Communications Plans Major Road Projects (TIMES OF OMAN, 27 Nov 86)	25
	Minister Inaugurates Musandam Dams (TIMES OF OMAN, 27 Nov 86)	26
	Power Production Increases (TIMES OF OMAN, 27 Nov 86)	27
	Briefs Copper Deposits Discovered	28
SAUDI	ARABIA	
	Success of Investment Council Discussed (AL-YAMAMAH, 22 Oct 86)	29
SYRIA		
	Water Rights Issues With Jordan Surveyed (Khayri Ghurrah; AL-DUSTUR, 3 Nov 86)	33

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

	(Albert Richkov Interview; AL-THAWRI, 18 Oct 86)	38
	German Ambassador Offers Greetings on National Day (Freimut Seidel Interview; AL-THAWRI, 18 Oct 86)	43
	Labor Conference Concludes Meetings (14 UKTUBAR, 23 Oct 86)	46
	Foreign Delegates Express Solidarity at Labor Conference (14 UKTUBAR, 24 Oct 86)	49
	Inauguration of New Party Central Committee Building Marked (Munda'i Diyan; 14 UKTUBAR, 14 Oct 86)	53
	Shabwah Enjoys Steady Economic Development (14 UKTUBAR, 3 Oct 86)	55
	Road Maintenance Unit in Lahij Achieves Goals (Muhammad al-Barhi; 14 UKTUBAR, 10 Oct 86)	58
	Briefs	
	Message to Ortega Cabinet Stresses Economic Measures Economic Cooperation With Cuba Cuban Cooperation Protocol Joint Projects With Soviets	60 60 61 61
	SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHAN:	ISTAN PARTON OF THE PROPERTY O	
٠	Soviets Provide Petrochemical Assistance (HEYWAD, 25 Sep 86)	62
	Revolutionary Council Committee Assesses Economic Matters (HEYWAD, 27 Sep 86)	64
	Living Councils Provide Various Services (ANIS, various dates)	66
	Increased Membership Literacy Courses Clean Water, Electricity	66 67 67
	Efforts Underway To Improve, Expand Ground Transportation	
	(HEYWAD, 28 Sep 86)	69

BANGLADESH

	Newspapers Disagree on Availability of Food (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 29 Oct 86; HOLIDAY, 7 Nov 86)	72
	'Enough Food Stock' No Noticeable Improvement, by Hassan A. Quashem	72 73
	Cost-of-Living Index Rises During First Quarter (THE NEW NATION, 30 Oct 86)	75
INDIA		
	Foreign Ministers Comment on Indo-Pakistan Relations (THE STATESMAN, 15 Nov 86; THE TELEGRAPH, 15 Nov 86)	76
	Pakistan Foreign Secretary Tiwari-Khan Talks	76 77
	Supreme Court Rules on Suing of Foreign Missions (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Nov 86)	78
	Lok Sabha Passes Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (THE TELEGRAPH, 12 Nov 86)	79
	April Elections Likely in Four States (THE STATESMAN, 14 Nov 86)	80
IRAN		
	Rafsanjani Addresses Questions of 'Imposed War' (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 7 Sep 86)	81
	Heavy Industry Minister Addresses Problem of Self-Sufficiency (KEYHAN, 7 Sep 86)	97
	Industrial Independence Economic Reconstruction, Behzad Nabavi Interview	97 99
PAKIS	TAN	
	Military Cooperation With U.S. Viewed (Jamal Rashid; VIEWPOINT, 13 Nov 86)	107
	Democratic Experiment Tried by Regime Discussed (Irshad Ahmad Haqqani; JANG, 8 Nov 86)	114
	Commentary on Reasons for Tolerance of Disintegration Talk (Ahmad Nadim Qasimi; JANG, 8 Nov 86)	117
	Briefs Chief Minister on Government Jobs	119

JPRS-NEA-87-003 8 JANUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

ALGERIA

	Further Developments Regarding Constantine Riots (Frederic Fritscher; LE MONDE, various dates)	1
•	Causes, Aftermath of Constantine Riots Sentences Handed Down to 'Agitators'	1
	Outlook for Food Production (EL MOUDJAHID, various dates)	5
	Agriculture, Food Self-Sufficiency Discussed, Editorial Better Management, Increased Production Seen as Key	5
EGYPT	by A. Ancer	6
	Legal Expert Reviews Taba Dispute, Probable Resolution (Mufid Shihab Interview; AKHIR SA'AH, 3 Dec 86)	11
-	Biographies, Policies of New Cabinet Ministers Reviewed (Amir al-Zahar, et al.; AKHIR SA'AH, 19 Nov 86)	19
SUDAN		
	Party Representatives Comment on New Budget (Badr al-Din Malik; AL-DUSTUR, 13 Oct 86)	33
TUNISIA	A	
	Tunisian Leaders Criticized for Resorting to IMF (Sophie Bessis; JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE, Oct-Nov 86)	41

	Country's Ties With IMF, World Bank Examined (Samir Gharbi; JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE, Oct-Nov 86)	44
•	Military Service Law Reviewed (LE TEMPS, 4 Oct 86)	47
	Rural, Regional Development Reviewed (Najet Khantouche Interview; DIALOGUE, 13 Oct 86)	51
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
[RAQ		
	Duty-Free Market, Policy Discussed by Official (As'ad al-'Aquli; AL-TADAMUN, 15 Nov 86)	58
	Briefs Fresh Water Supply Data	61
ISRAEL		
	Editorial Staff of Daily Newspapers Described (Yig'al Serna; HADASHOT, 22 Aug 86)	62
JORDAN		
	Experts Discuss Future Energy Prospects (AL-IQTISADI AL-URDUNI, Jul-Aug 86)	74
SAUDI	ARABIA	
	Housing Projects in Kingdom's Various Provinces Reviewed (AL-RIYAD, 24 Aug 86)	94
	Tourism in al-Bahah: Deputy Governor Interviewed (AL-YAMAMAH, 22 Oct 86)	107
SYRIA		
	Ties With French Intelligence Discussed (AL-'ALAM, 14 Oct 86)	113
	Forest Conservation Efforts Discussed (TISHRIN, 1 Oct 86)	115
PEOPL	E'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN	
	Religious Magazine Offers Samples of Atheistic Items in Press (AL-AMAL, 5 Nov 86)	119
/7210		

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

REGION	AL AFFAIRS	
	Survey of Foreign Broadcasts in Arabic (AL-MAJALLAH, various dates)	1
	Survey Introduction, by Nadim Nasir	1
	The Voice of America, by 'Atif 'Abd-al-Jawad	7
	Radio Moscow, by Kamran Qaradaghi Radio Monte Carlo, by Mustafa al-Yahyawi	10
	Radio Switzerland	14
	Radio Beijing	20
	Israeli Radio	21
	BBC Overseas Service	24
	Radio Iran, by 'Ali Nurizadeh	30
	ARAB AFRICA	
ALGERI	·A	
	Prices, Unemployment, Frustrated Youth Heighten Social Tensions (Frederic Fritscher; LE MONDE, 23 Nov 86)	32
	General Benloucif's Dismissal as Chief of Staff Examined (Frederic Fritscher; LE MONDE, 23 Nov 86)	35
EGYPT		
	New Cabinet Ministers Discuss Priorities, Aims (Muhammad Zayid; AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH, 14 Nov 86)	3

	Future of Party System Analyzed (AL-WAFD, 6 Nov 86)	43
TUNISIA	<u>,</u> .	
	New Premier Discusses Various Recent Problems, Events (Rachid Sfar Interview; AL-MUSTAQBAL, 22 Nov 86)	48
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Modern Telephone Services for Babil Governorate ('Ayid Muhammad Mansur; AL-THAWRAH, 28 Nov 86)	60
ISRAEL		
	Herzog Visit to Singapore Angers Malaysia (Greer Fay Cashman; THE JERUSALEM POST, 20 Nov 86)	62
	Ori Or, Former Northern Commander, Profiled (Hayim Revia; HADASHOT, 6 Jun 86)	64
	Details of Assassination of Mustafa Hafiz Disclosed (Gil Qeysari; MA'ARIV, 12 Jun 86)	71
	History of Land Fraud Scandal in Territories Described (Nahma Do'aq; YEDI'OT AHARONOT, 12 Jun 86)	74
	Briefs Economic Pact With Ecuador	84
JORDAN		
	Various General Security Promotions Reviewed (AL-DUSTUR, 21 Nov 86)	85
	Forestry Chief Describes Development Plans (AL-DUSTUR, 22 Nov 86)	87
LEBANC	ON CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTO	
	Syria Sets Conditions for Reconciliation With Al-Jumayyil (AL-QABAS, 15 Oct 86)	89
٠	Lebanese Islamic Salvation Front Receives Monetary Support (Naji al-Ahmad; AL-QABAS, 15 Oct 86)	91

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

	Writer Shafiq Al-Hut Profiled (AL-MUSTAQBAL, 18 Oct 86)	•••••	93
PEOPLE	S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN	•	
	Al-Bid Discusses Rehabilitation, Party, National Goals (Nura Fakhuri; AL-MAJALLAH, 22-28 Oct 86)		98
	SOUTH ASIA	•	
BANGLA	DESH		
	Writer Examines Mounting Trade Gap With India (Syed Badiuzzaman; THE NEW NATION, 7 Nov 86)	•••••	101
	FRG To Furnish Technical, Financial, Food Aid (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 7 Nov 86)		102
	Fall in Foreign Exchange Reserves Averted (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 13 Nov 86)		103
INDIA			
	Statement Decries U.S. Curbs on Trade With India (THE STATESMAN, 17 Nov 86)	• • • • • • •	104
IRAN			
	Paper Comments on Relations With U.S. (Editorial; TEHRAN TIMES, 29 Nov 86)	•••••	105
	Syrian Envoy Comments on 'British Aims' in Severance of (ETTELA'AT, 28 Oct 86)		107
	Minister Describes Industry Growth Under War Conditions (KEYHAN, 28 Sep 86)	•••••	111
	Kho'iniha Warns Anti-Religious, 'Political Bankrupts' (ETTELA'AT, 27 Oct 86)	•••••	115
PAKIST	AN		
	Politics Based on Show of Weapons in Sind Discussed (Mohammad Ali; NAWA-I-WAQT, 11 Oct 86)	•••••	118
/7210	$A_{ij}^{(i)}$,	

JPRS-NEA-87-005 12 JANUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

REGIONAL AFFAIRS	
Briefs Possibility of Arab-European Conference	1
ARAB AFRICA	
EGYPT	
Redevelopment of Lake al-Bardawil Fishing Industry (Muhammad 'Ali Sayyid; AKHIR SA'AH, 19 Nov 86)	2
Effects of Child Labor Examined (Amani Kamal al-Din; AL-HAWADITH, 28 Nov 86)	10
Briefs African Bank Loan Company Profits, Losses Reported	16 16
MOROCCO	
Central Bank Success, Plans Analyzed (JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE, Nov 86)	17
Success of Central Bank Laraki Interviewed, Abdellatif Laraki Interview Moroccans Abroad	17 21 24
SUDAN	
Al-Mirghani Appeals for End to Fighting in Lebanon (SINA, 1 Dec 86)	26
- a -	

		Locusts Attack Cultivated Areas Sudanese-Libyan Protocol Signed Solidarity With Palestinians Message to Iraqi President	27 27 27 27
TUNISIA	1		
	Briefs	Cooperation With Algeria	29
		ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
ISRAEL			
TOIMED		n 1 1-	
	Reports	Claim Israel Aiding Mozambique Rebels (David Horovitz; THE JERUSALEM POST, 30 Nov 86)	30
	Israeli	Foreign Currency Reservés Highest Since 1948 (HATZOFE, 26 Nov 86)	31
	Briefs	New IDF Advocate General Concern Over Decline of Arabic Speakers Jerusalem Arab Population Increases Distribution of AL-FAJR Banned Academic, Research Ties With PRC	32 32 32 32 32
JORDAN			
		Sewage Projects Reviewed (JORDAN TIMES, 22 Nov 86)	33
	Fish P	roduction, Consumption Discussed (JORDAN TIMES, 22 Nov 86)	34
	Briefs	Ba'th Party Official Dies	35
KUWAIT	•		
	Reduce	d Reliance on Foreign Food Sought (ARAB TIMES, 30 Nov 86)	36
	Briefs	Alleged Involvement in Gulf War Conscripts Release Urged Minister Departs for OPEC Talks OPEC Plenary Session Delayed	38 38 38

OMAN

	Official Discusses Economic Measures, Policy (DAILY OBSERVER, 13 Dec 86)	40
CVDTA		
SYRIA		
	Briefs	
	Unrest in Northern Cities	43
	SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHAN	IT CT AN	
ArGHAN	NISIAN	
	Soviet Medical Equipment Delivered (KABUL NEW TIMES, 1 Sep 86)	44
	Drug Production To Increase 73 Percent (KABUL NEW TIMES, 25 Aug 86)	45
	Textile Company Overfulfills Production Plan (Farouq; KABUL NEW TIMES, 29 Sep 86)	46
	Improved Seeds Enterprise To Boost Production (Ibrahim; KABUL NEW TIMES, 10 Nov 86)	47
	Big Jump in Irrigation Forecast (Farouq; KABUL NEW TIMES, 6 Nov 86)	48
	Kabul Domestic Flight Terminal Inaugurated (KABUL NEW TIMES, 6 Nov 86)	50
	Briefs	
	Health Services Expanded Bolan Irrigation Canal Completed	51 51
BANGLA	ADESH	
	Details of Trade Agreement With Thailand Told (THE NEW NATION, 6 Nov 86)	52
	Nepal Water-Sharing Talks Termed Fruitful (Mustafa Tareq; HOLIDAY, 7 Nov 86)	53
	Papers Report on Ending of Martial Law (Various sources, 11 Nov 86)	55
	Parliament Proceedings, Ershad Speech	55
	More on Proceedings, Amendment Text	56
	Hasina Comments	58
	Begum Zia Confined	58
	Communist Party Response	59

	Text of Government Press Note on 10 November Riots (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 11 Nov 86)	60
	Cabinet Bans Public Meetings at Baitul Mukarram Square (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 14 Dec 86)	61
	Briefs	60
	New Chief Justice Envoy to Uganda Ambassadors to Peru, Syria	62 62 62
; .	Envoy to Seychelles Ambassador to GDR	62 62 62
	New Yugoslav Ambassador Bangladesh-UAE Investment Firm New Algerian Envoy	63 63
	New Algerian Envoy	
BHUTAN	en e	
	Briefs PRC Leaders Greet King	64
INDIA		
	Gandhi Reports to Rajya Sabha on SAARC Meeting (PATRIOT, 20 Nov 86)	65
·	Agency Reports Final Estimate on Foodgrain Production (PATRIOT, 17 Nov 86)	66
IRAN		
	Soviets To Cooperate in Survey of Caspian Sea Reserves (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 27 Aug 86)	67
	Minister of Islamic Guidance Details Propaganda Efforts (Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Khatami Interview; KEYHAN, 20 Sep 86)	69
	Banks Allowed To Confiscate Possessions of Indebted Companies (Hojjat ol-Eslam Ramazani Interview; KEYHAN, 17 Sep 86)	72
	Work Permit Particulars Announced (KEYHAN, 11 Sep 86)	74
PAKIST	PAN CALL CONTROL OF THE CONTROL OF T	
	Commentary Argues Against Acquiring AWACS (M. B. Naqvi; DAWN, 22 Nov 86)	78
	NAP Leader Wali Khan Charges External, Internal Threats (Various sources, various dates)	80
	Sees U.S. Interference, Khan Abdul Wali Khan Interview	80

Alleges U.S. Not for Democracy in Country Fears Reimposition of Martial Law	82 83
Commentary Considers Lessons of U.SIran 'Fiasco' (DAWN, 20 Nov 86)	84
Former Minister Expresses Fear of 'Total War' With India (DAWN, 22 Nov 86)	86
Editorial Views SAARC Bangalore Meeting (DAWN, 16 Nov 86)	87
Zia Vows To Keep Local Councils Apolitical (DAWN, 18 Nov 86)	89
Commentary Discusses Zia's Remarks on Democracy (Watchman; DAWN, 19 Nov 86)	90
Copies of Ammesty Report Allegedly Withheld (THE MUSLIM, 20 Nov 86)	92
Minister Clarifies Position on Shariat Bill (DAWN, 19 Nov 86)	94
Committee Resolves To 'Struggle Against' Shariat Bill (DAWN, 19 Nov 86)	96
Rally Calls for Shariat Bill's Passage (DAWN, 19 Nov 86)	97
Government Accused of Backing Separatists (DAWN, 19 Nov 86)	99
Assembly Debates Senate Election Amendment Bill (THE MUSLIM, 20 Nov 86)	100
MRD Calls for Interim Government (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 8 Dec 86)	102
Sind Domicile: Government To Verify Certificates (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 8 Dec 86)	103
PPP Leader Demands Army's Withdrawal From Sind (DAWN, 20 Nov 86)	104
Sind Not To Accept 'Colony' Treatment, Says Assembly Member (DAWN, 20 Nov 86)	105
Motion of Mumtaz Bhutto's Arrest Ruled Out (DAWN, 20 Nov 86)	106
Denationalization of Educational Institutions Opposed (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 8 Dec 86)	107
- e - 19	

Pir Pagaro Talks About Mohajirs, Other Issues (DAWN, 20 Nov 86)	108
Commentary Views Karachi's 'Crime Mafia' (DAWN, 18 Nov 86)	109
Muslim League Chatha Group's Internal Turmoil Discussed (Editorial; JANG, 19 Oct 86)	111
PRC Delegation Returns PRC Ambassador Meets Junejo Shackling of Political Detainees Work on 7th Plan Amnesty Demanded DRA Mediation Trip Planned PRC Technology on 'Easy Terms' Saudi Fund Loan	113 113 113 113 114 114 114
SRI LANKA	
LTTE Leader Statement on Fast Reported, Viewed (Voice of Tamil Eelam, 23 Nov 86)	115
/7310	.#

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JPRS-NEA-87-006 16 JANUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

ALGERI	A.	
	Private Sector Role in Economy Examined (Jean Leca, Nicole Grimaud; MAGHREB-MACHREK, Jul-Sep 86)	.]
	Effect of Decentralization on Local Interests Discussed (Mourad Laras; REVOLUTION AFRICAINE, 14 Nov 86)	24
	Problems in Education Sector Examined (REVOLUTION AFRICAINE, 14 Nov 86)	27
	New Legislation, by A. Laib	27
	Student Unrest Subsides, by Ahmed Cheniki	29
	Self-Examination Needed, by Kheireddine Ameyar	31
TUNISI	A. T. C.	
	Opposition Figures Discuss Recent Elections (Khayr-al-Din al-Sawabni; AL-DUSTUR, 17 Nov 86)	33
	Prominent Opposition Leader Criticizes Government (Ahmed Ben Salah Interview; AL-DUSTUR, 15 Dec 86)	37
	Dali Accused of Forming Private Militia (Salim al-Gharbi; AL-ANWAR AL-TUNISIYAH, 30 Nov 86)	46
	Ruling Party Seen Behind Labor Union's Troubles (Junaydi 'Abd-al-Jawwad; AL-TARIQ AL-JADID, 22 Nov 86).	48
	Increased Conflict Seen in University Politics (AL-ANWAR AL-TUNISIYAH, 23 Nov 86)	51

Briefs Wassila's Return	53
ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ	
Process of Training New Recruits Surveyed (AL-JAYSH AL-SHA'BI, Dec 86)	54
Early Recruitment Phase Realistic Battle Exercise	54 57
ISRAEL	
New IDF Counter-Terrorism School Described (Hanoch Sheinman, Baruch Ron; BAMAHANE, No 6, 29 Oct 86)	60
'Amos Rubin, Shamir's Economic Adviser, Profiled (Nehemia Strassler; HA'ARETZ, 31 Oct 86)	61
Briefs Technology to China	65
LEBANON	
Iran Seeks To Avert Hostilities Between Amal, Hizbollah (AL-MUJTAMA', 28 Oct 86)	66
OMAN	
Increasing Demand for Natural Gas Boosts Productivity (FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG/BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT, 17 Oct 86)	71
SAUDI ARABIA	
Emigre Journal Attempts To Explain Oil Minister's Ouster (AL-MUSTAQBAL, 22 Nov 86)	74
Development of Domestic Tourism Industry Urged (AL-TIJARAH, Jul 86)	79
Efforts To Attract Investment Tourism in 'Asir District, Faysal Bin Bandar Interview	79 89
SYRIA	
Rif'at al-Asad's Whereabouts Examined (AL-DUSTUR, 27 Oct 86)	95
Lack of Pricing Restrictions in Dara Assessed (Husayn Qasim; TISHRIN, 22 Oct 86)	98

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

(FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG/BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT, 17 Oct 86)	101
SOUTH ASIA	
PAKISTAN	
'Army Action' on Sind Villages Criticized (DAWN, 10 Dec 86)	105
Members of Sind Assembly Said Furious Over Arms Licenses (DAWN, 10 Dec 86)	106
Benazir Accuses Regime of Failing To Defend Frontiers (DAWN, 10 Dec 86)	107
Bizenjo Threatens To Support Confederation Demand (DAWN, 7 Dec 86)	108
OMA Leaders Join PPP (DAWN, 7 Dec 86)	109
Jam Saqi Released After Long Detention (DAWN, 10 Dec 86)	110
Tribal Chief Kukikhel Said 'Lying Low' After Return From Kabul (DAWN, 10 Dec 86)	112
Khar's Petition: Hearing Continues (DAWN, 10 Dec 86)	113
Karachi Riots Said of 'Little Concern' in NWFP (Muhammad Ali Siddiqi; DAWN, 5 Dec 86)	114
Management Problems at Steel Mills Termed 'Nightmare' (Shaheen Sehbai; DAWN, 6 Dec 86)	116
Delinking of Rupee: Long Term Policy Urged (M. B. Naqvi; DAWN, 6 Dec 86)	118
/9986	

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JPRS-NEA-87-007 20 JANUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

LIBYA	
Paper Charges Formation of New Party Needed (Various sources, various dates)	1
'Dirty Alliance' Rules, Editorial Cartoon Based on Editorial	1 5
TUNISIA	
Mzali Comments on Rise of Islamic Tendency Influence (AL-MUJTAMA', 18 Nov 86)	6
ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
ISRAEL	
Poll Shows Alignment Weaker, Likud Recovering (HA'ARETZ, 26 Dec 86)	8
Decline of Arabic Studies Threatens Ability of Israeli Intelligence (Avi Benayahu; GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE, 14 Dec 86)	10
IDF Successfully Concludes Major Command Exercise (Ze'ev Schiff; GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE, 3 Dec 86)	13
SAUDI ARABIA	
Petroleum, Minerals University Director Interviewed (Bakr 'Abdallah Ibn Bakr Interview; AL-YAMAMAH, 8, 15 Oct 86)	16

	Electricity Sector Experiences High Growth Rate (Sa'd al-Huwaymil; AL-RIYAD, 20 Nov 86)	29
	Highway Network Project Inaugurated (Yahya Aburidas; AL-RIYAD, 18 Nov 86)	30
	Implementation of Water, Sewer Projects Discussed (Salim al-Ahmadi; AL-RIYAD, 20 Nov 86)	32
	Briefs	
	Economic Cooperation With Algeria Use of Electricity Spreads Completed School Projects Qatar, Bahrain Dispute To Be Mediated Medical Aid to Comoros	34 34 34 35 35
	SOUTH ASIA	
A TOTT A BT	CTTAN	
AFGHAN		
	All-Out Efforts Undertaken To Build Economy (KABUL NEW TIMES, 18 Oct 86)	36
INDIA		
	Gandhi Clarifies Statement on Gorbachev Visit (THE TELEGRAPH, 3 Dec 86)	47
	Further Reportage Surrounding Gorbachev Visit (Various sources, various dates)	48
	Meeting With Indian Government Visit to House of Soviet Culture Needs of Indo-Soviet Trade, by Manubhai Shah List of Major Indo-Soviet Projects Science, Technology Ties Cooperation in Agriculture	48 49 50 52 53 54
	Papers Report Close of Gorbachev Visit (Various sources, 29 Nov 86)	55
	Gandhi at Press Conference More on Press Conference Analyst on Press Conference, by G. K. Reddy Analyst on Leaders' Performance, by G. K. Reddy	55 56 58 59
	Further Reports on Results of Gorbachev Visit (Various sources, various dates)	60
	Analyst on Economic, Technical Cooperation, by G. K. Reddy More on Aid Agreement Defense Officials' Talks Space Center Offer, by G. K. Reddy	60 61 62 62

	Analyst Writes on Team Accompanying Gorbachev	
	(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 22 Nov 86)	64
	ranger in the second of the se	
	Nation Reaffirms Commitments to Palestinian Cause	
	(PATRIOT, 30 Nov 86)	66
	Correspondent on Iran, Iraq Debts to India	. -
	(F. J. Khergamvala; THE HINDU, 20 Nov 86)	67
	Chinese Reported To Dig in for Winter in Arunachal	.
	(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 1 Dec 86)	69
	Excerpts of Reporter's Interview With Dalai Lama	71
	(Soutik Biswas; THE TELEGRAPH, 23 Nov 86)	71
	PTI Reports on U.S. Use of Pakistan Bases	70
	(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 23 Nov 86)	73
	are to smill not be not	,
	Minister, MP's Discuss Pakistan Arms Buildup	75
	(PATRIOT, 22 Nov 86)	75
	Delhi Considers Unofficial Talks With Rebel Sikhs	
	(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 5 Dec 86)	76
	(G. K. Keddy, The Rinds, 5 Dec 60)	. 0
	Delhi Firm on Orissa National Test Range Site	
	(PATRIOT, 4 Dec 86)	77
	(TITITOT) + DCC 00) !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	
	CPI Member Introduces Bills on Nepali, Hill Autonomy	
	(THE STATESMAN, 22 Nov 86)	78
	Gandhi Tries To Restore Party Image in States	
	(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 1 Dec 86)	79
	UAE Identifies Areas for Joint Ventures With India	07
	(PATRIOT, 1 Dec 86)	81
	Papers Report Details of Projected 1987-1988 Plan	0.0
	(Various sources, 3 Dec 86)	82
		82
	Summary of Projection	83
	Plan Details Given	0.5
	Indian Businessman Hass John To Chift Broduction	
	Indian Businessmen Urge Japan To Shift Production (THE STATESMAN, 3 Dec 86)	84
	(IRE STATESMAN, J Dec 00)	5 7
	Electronics Firm Chief on Plans To Meet AWACS Threat	
	(THE HINDII 30 Nov 86)	85
	(THE HINDU, 30 Nov 86)	
	Electronic Voting Machines To Be Used in Next Poll	
	(PATRIOT, 5 Dec 86)	86
•		
	Details of Planned Indigenous Computer Told	
	(THE HINDU, 3 Dec 86)	87
	- с - 27	
	27	

	Border Security Force Anniversary Observed (PATRIOT, 1 Dec 86)	89
	Foreign Currency Loans Future Naval Airbase Congress-I Leader's Death Mizo Lieutenant Governor Pact With Norway Southern Command Chief Tibetan Leader's Letter Indo-Soviet Machine Building	90 91 91 91 91 92 92
IRAN		
	Current Meat Prices Announced in Several Provinces (KEYHAN, 2 Oct 86)	93
	Amir Taheri: Rapprochement With U.S. Will Not Save Mullahs (London KEYHAN, 4 Dec 86)	95
	Government Emanating From Present Regime Seen Unacceptable (London KEYHAN, 4 Dec 86)	97
	Liberation Front Refutes Information in U.S. Paper (London KEYHAN, 4 Dec 86)	L00
	Amini Warns Compatriots Against Rumors, Dissension (London KEYHAN, 4 Dec 86)	L02
	Briefs Rice Import Increase	104
PAKISTA	N	
	Political Parties Urged To Demand Army Get Out of Politics (Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 7 Nov 86)	105
•	Concern Voiced Over Indian Activities Involving Sind (Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 7 Nov 86)	107

/9987

JPRS-NEA-87-008 23 JANUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

ALGERIA		
F + 3	Causes of Student Uprisings Examined (Azraj 'Umar; AL-DUSTUR, 24 Nov 86)	1
EGYPT		
	Comment on Decade of Multiparty System (Mustafa Bakri; AL-MUSAWWAR, 18 Dec 86)	6
	Airports Upgraded To Accommodate Jumbo Jets (Muhammad 'Abd-al-Raziq; AKHIR SA'AH, 3 Dec 86)	13
MOROCC	o	
, .	Briefs Fishery Accord With Japan Moroccan-Spanish Protocol	15 15
TUNISI		
	Political Climate Ripe for January Uprisings (As'ad Haidar; AL-MUSTAQBAL, 29 Nov 86)	16
BAHRAII		
DARKALI		
	Recommendations for Reducing Expatriate Labor Force (AL-ITTIHAD, 29 Nov 86)	21

IRAQ

	(Qasim Nakah Nazzal; AL-THAWRAH, 4 Dec 86)	26
	Women's Training Camp Visited (AL-THAWRAH, 1 Oct 86)	28
	Various Wartime Development Projects in Al-Ta'mim Governorate (Muhammad Husayn al-Daghistani; AL-THAWRAH, 4 Dec 86)	29
	Infrastructure in Irbil Described (Najdah 'Abd-al-Majid; AL-THAWRAH, 4 Oct 86)	32
	Transportation, Communication Projects Described (AL-DUSTUR, 20 Oct 86)	35
	Progress on Major Baghdad Sewage Projects Reviewed (Faryal Jasim; AL-THAWRAH, 4 Dec 86)	37
	Briefs New Telephone Service New Services in Kurdistan	39 39
ISRAEL		
	Jerusalem Mayor, Teddy Kollek, Profiled (Ya'el Paz Melamed; MA'ARIV, 17 Oct 86)	40
	Former Professor Describes Mordekhay Vanunu (Tom Segev; KOTERET RASHIT, No 205, 5 Nov 86)	49
LEBANO	N	
	Ayatollah Montazeri Urges Islamic Unity (AL-SAFIR, 5 Oct 86)	53
	Social Security Expansion in 1986 Cited (AL-SAFIR, 14 Oct 86)	55
	Industrial Exports for September 1986 Cited (AL-SAFIR, 16 Oct 86)	59
	Briefs Independent State Declared	61
PALEST	INIAN AFFAIRS	
	Palestinians in Tyre Discussed ('Ali 'Ajami; AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, 19 Oct 86)	62

	in the contract of the contrac	Ar j
W	orld Peace Council Supports Palestinians (Kaffah 'Arif; FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH, 15 Nov 86)	66
ı	nternational Organization of Journalists Convene (Khalid Darwish; FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH, 15 Nov 86)	70
SAUDI. AR	ABIA	
P	rince Talal Ibd 'Abd-al-'Aziz Interviewed (AL-MUSTAQBAL, 25 Oct 86)	73
P	Possible Arms Deal With France Discussed (AL-MUSTAQBAL, 25 Oct 86)	78
UNITED A	ARAB EMIRATES	
A	Aspects of Nation's Development on 15th Anniversary Reviewed (AL-ITTIHAD, 1 Dec 86)	80
N	Nation Cooperates With Kenya, Indonesia in Joint Projects (Ibrahim Ahmad; AL-ITTIHAD, 1 Dec 86)	87
A	Abu Dhabi Emirate Projects Reviewed (Ahmad Sa'id; AL-ITTIHAD, 29 Nov 86)	88
	Briefs Abu Dhabi Project Allocations	90
,	SOUTH ASIA	
IRAN		
τ	JN Permanent Delegate Comments on Arms Deal Developments (ETTELA'AT, 16 Nov 86)	91
.	Majlis Deputy Comments on 'Black House,' U.S. Presidents (ETTELA'AT, 26 Nov 86)	96
	Intelligence Ministry's College Opened (KEYHAN, 29 Sep 86)	103
נ	Telephone Numbers To Be Distributed by Year's End (KEYHAN, 1 Oct 86)	105
PAKISTAI		*:
1	Need for Long-Range Government Planning Emphasized (Nafees Siddiqi; JANG, 16 Nov 86)	106

Arrest	of Alleged Indian Spies in Sind Re (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 9 Dec 86)	ported	*******
Briefs	Alimenta Company		
	Hathora Group Arrests Plans for Chiniot Subdivision		

/9986

JPRS-NEA-87-009 (CORRECTED) 28 JANUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

REGIONA	AL AFFAIRS	
	Oapec Offers Special Deal to Tunisia, Approves 5-Year Plan (ARAB TIMES, 4, 5 Dec 86)	1
	ARAB AFRICA	٠
LIBYA		
	Articles Warn of Threat to Revolution From Within (AL-ZAHAF AL-AKHDAR, 17 Nov 86; AL-JAMAHIRIYAH, 14 Nov 86)	2
	Bourgeoisie Betrays People's Interests, by Abu 'Ujaylah Kashadah Foes Keep al-Qadhdhafi From Masses, by Khalifah Ahwas People's Committees Held Accountable, by Naji Ibrahim	2 5 8
	Briefs Gromyko, Mansur Condemn U.S. Bulgarian Agricultural Agreement Egyptian Army Personnel Arrested Supreme Soviet Delegation	10 10 10 11
SUDAN		
	Interview With President of Constituent Assembly (Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil Interview; AL-MAJALLAH, 15- 21 Oct 86)	12
	Decision on Meat Imports Questioned (Al-Safi Musa, Badr-al-Din Malik; AL-DUSTUR, 27 Oct 86)	15

TUNISIA

	Accusations Against Former Prime Minister Mzali Discussed (AL-DUSTUR, 10 Nov 86)	22
·	Mzali Refutes Accusations, Mohamed Mzali Interview Hedi Mabrouk's Viewpoint, by Al-Salami al-Hasani Baccouche on Mzali Trial, by Al-Salami al-Hasani	22 31 35
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Turkish Paper on Peshmerga Actions in Iraq (Husamettin Karanfil; TERCUMAN, 11 Dec 86)	37
	Al-Qadisiyah Governor Discusses Grain Production (AL-THAWRAH, 9 Nov 86)	38
	Briefs USSR Awards Gas Line Subcontracts Proposed Light Industry Projects New Regulations for Expatriates New Regulations for Deserters	41 41 42 42
ISRAEL		
	Arens Names New Arab Affairs Aide (Elaine Ruth Fletcher, David Rudge; THE JERUSALEM POST, 4 Dec 86)	43
	Anti-Terror Accord Signed With Italy (Yoram Gazit; THE JERUSALEM POST, 5 Dec 86)	45
	Economic Situation in Territories Discussed (THE JERUSALEM STAR, 11-17 Dec 86)	46
	Poor Conditions in Arab Schools Reported (Bernard Jospens; THE JERUSALEM STAR, 18 Dec 86)	48
ı	More Belt-Tightening Envisioned for 1987 (Dov Genhovski; YEDI'OT AHARONOT, 28 Oct 86)	50
	New Oil Exploration Project Underway (Bernard Josephs; THE JERUSALEM POST, 12 Dec 86)	54
	Briefs Knesset Strengthens Arms Export Regulations Jordanian Official's Secret Visit to Gaza	55 56
JORDAN	en e	
	AL-DUSTUR Regrets Council'; 'Weak' Resolutions (Editorial; AL-DUSTUR, 11 Dec 36)	57

Amman, Cairo Reject Shamir's Call for Talks (Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 12 Dec 86)	58
AL-RA'Y on King Husayn Visit to Saudi Arabia (Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 21 Dec 86)	60
Jordanian Official Visits Pro-PLO Institutions (Pinhas 'Inbari; 'AL HAMISHMAR, 19 Dec 86)	62
SAWT AL-SHA'B Reports Nabulus Mayor Interview (SAWT AL-SHA'B, 11 Dec 86)	63
Alia's Ghandur on West Bank Offices, Share Sales (JORDAN TIMES, 16 Dec 86)	65
Problems of Recession Discussed (AL-DUSTUR, 10 Nov 86)	67
Economic Difficulties Summarized (AL-MUSTAQBAL, 15 Nov 86)	71
West Bank Delegation Seeks Aid, Praises Plan (AL-DUSTUR, 17 Dec 86)	72
King Husayn Addresses Arab Trade Delegations (Amman Domestic Service, 15 Dec 86)	73
Trade Federation Meetings End; Recommendations (JORDAN TIMES, 18 Dec 86)	74
Al-Rifa'i Opens Arab Trade Federation Meeting (Amman Domestic Service, 15 Dec 86)	76
AL-RA'Y Condemns 'Assassination' of Jerusalem Electricity Company (Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 20 Dec 86)	77
Health Minister Discusses Water, Sewage Projects (JORDAN TIMES, 14 Dec 86)	78
Improved Sewage System in A1-Zarqa' (THE JERUSALEM STAR, 4 Dec 86)	79
Prospects for Olive Harvest Discussed (Monika Warich; JORDAN TIMES, 9 Dec 86)	80
Olive Oil Purchased From East, West Banks (JORDAN TIMES, 16 Dec 86)	82
Problems Facing Phosphate Industry Discussed (Par Dougherty: THE JERUSALEM STAR, 11-17 Dec 86)	83

• .•

	Plastic	s Recycling Project Discussed (Brian Maudsley; THE JERUSALEM STAR, 4 Dec 86)	84
# F	Briefs	Ambassador Presents Credentials British Loan, Aid Offer West Bank, Gaza Produce Allowed Radio Details Israeli Measures in Gaza Jordan, FRG Sign Agreement Potash Exports to PRC	86 86 86 86 87 87
KUWAIT			
	Gulf Pe	etrochemical Research Center Proposed (AL-BALAGH, 16 Nov 86)	88
LEBANON			
	Syrian	Plot Against Al-Jumayyil Alleged (Jihad Farah; AL-DUSTUR, 24 Nov 86)	89
•	Briefs	Hizbollah Patronizes Amal Dissenter More Weapons for Al-Murabitun	93 93
QATAR			
·	Shaykh	Khalifah on Country's Role in Arab Solidarity (AL-MUSTAQBAL, No 510, 29 Nov 86)	94
	Finance	e Minister Says North Field Gas Project To Begin (DAILY GULF TIMES, 15 Dec 86)	97
	Declin	e in Imports From Asia Reported (TIMES OF OMAN, 27 Nov 86)	98
i.	IDTC R	eports on Setting Up Local Industries (DAILY GULF TIMES, 8 Dec 86)	99
	Health	Ministry Lifts Ban on Foodstuffs From East Europe, Turkey (DAILY GULF TIMES, 10 Dec 86)	100
SYRIA			
	Papers	Question 'Suspicious' U.S. Aid (Damascus Domestic Service, 18 Dec 86)	101
	Briefs	Rif'ar Al-Asad Asked To Return	103

HNITED ARAB EMIRATES

0117722			
	Economic	Cooperation Discussed With Egypt, Pakistan, Italy (Abu Dhabi; AL-RIYAD, 19 Nov 86)	104
		SOUTH ASIA	
IRAN			
	Majlis	Deputies Reprimanded by Khomeyni on McFarlane's Visit (KEYHAN, 27 Nov 86)	106
	Madani	Refutes 'Charges' Ascribed to Him by U.S. Media (KEYHAN, 27 Nov 86)	109
		Said To Be 'Architect of Deal' With U.S. (KEYHAN, 27 Nov 86)	112
	Opposit	ion Paper Comments on Bani-Sadr's Revelations (KEYHAN, 27 Nov 86)	114
	Khomeyr	ni's Attitude Toward Hafiz Al-Asad Discussed (KEYHAN, 27 Nov 86)	115
	Yamani	Dismissal Viewed by 'Prominent Oil-Expert' (ETTELA'AT, 11 Nov 86)	116
MEDAT			
NEPAL	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		
	Briefs		119
		Communists Oppose Gurkhaland Movement	119
		Indian Bandits 'Create Havoc'	120
		Oman Envoy	120
		Ambassador to ROK	
	•		
PAKIS	TAN		
	Ban on	Parties Based on Regionalism, Factionalism Urged (Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 12 Nov 86)	121
	India'	s Military Exercise Seen as Threat to Pakistan (Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 12 Nov 86)	122
	Count	ry Said 'Arena' for Other Nations' Battles (VIEWPOINT, 27 Nov 86)	124
	Ban or	n Studies in USSR Denounced (VIEWPOINT, 11 Dec 86)	125
	Popul	ation Planning Criticized (VIEWPOINT, 11 Dec 86)	126

/9987

JPRS-NEA-87-010 30 JANUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS	
Bombing of Melbourne Turkish Consulate Detaile (Amruta Slee; THE SYDNEY MORNING HERAL	ed D, 24 Nov 86) 1
Armenian 'Headed for Beirut' Arrested, Interr (Carmel McCauley; THE AUSTRALIAN, 28 N	ogated 2
Man Charged Over Turkish Consulate Bombing (Simon Kent; THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD	, 27 Nov 86) 3
Armenian Advocate Rejects Violence (Simon Kent; THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD	, 27 Nov 86) 4
ARAB AFRICA	
SUDAN	
Kuwait's AL-SIYASAH Interviews Sudan's al-Hin (A1-Sharif Zayn-al-'Abadin al-Hindi In 19 Dec 86)	terview; AL-SIYASAH,
General Criticized for Statements on South (Editorial; SUDAN TIMES, 10 Dec 86)	7
Briefs Food Relief Tied to Harvest Problems	9
TUNISIA	
Briefs Communist Officials Visit Islamic Lead	ler 10

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

TOKALL		
	Muslims Who Sell Property to Jews Termed 'Heretics' (AL-ITTIHAD, 29 Nov 86)	11
	Briefs	
	Foreign Currency Reserves Up Ties With Greece Improving	14 14
JORDAN		
	West Bank Farmer Contests Israeli Claims (Josephine Zananiri; JORDAN TIMES, 6 Dec 86)	15
	Allocations to Ministries Under 1987 Budget Detailed (Samir Ghawi; JORDAN TIMES, 8 Dec 86)	18
	Amman Financial Market Statistics Cited (Samir Ghawi; JORDAN TIMES, 15 Dec 86)	26
	Reasons for Failure of Conservation Program Discussed (Fahed Fanek; JORDAN TIMES, 14 Dec 86)	28
	Contract Awarded for Irrigation Project (JORDAN TIMES, 18-19 Dec 86)	30
KUWAIT		
	Briefs GCC To Buy Aircraft	31
OMAN		
	Finance Minister Rules Out Further Currency Devaluation (DAILY GULF TIMES, 14 Dec 86)	32
	Various Economic Activities Described (Rami Nabil Khuri; AL-MUSTAQBAL, No 509, 22 Nov 86)	33
SAUDI	ARABIA	
	Health Director Discusses Services Provided to Citizens (Badr Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rabi'ah Interview; AL-RIYAD,	35

SOUTH ASIA

AFGH	ANI	ST	N
-------------	-----	----	---

1	Hikmaty	ar: Soviet Fighting Unwinnable war (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 8 Dec 86)	3
,	Visitin	g Resistance Official Interviewed (Niamey Domestic Service, 11 Dec 86)	7
:		pervises War Wounded in Kabul Hospital (Abdul Qudoos Mansoor Interview; AFGHAN REALITIES, 1 Dec 86)	1
	Price o	f Commodities Rises (AFGHAN INFORMATION CENTER, No 68, Nov 86)	6
	Petrole	um Transport Enterprise Exceeds Plan (KABUL NEW TIMES, 18 Nov 86)	7
	Consume	r Needs in Food, Other Items Met (KABUL NEW TIMES, 19 Nov 86)	8
	Metal W	Orks Plant Exceeds Projected Production (Dost Mohammad; KABUL NEW TIMES, 20 Nov 86)	0
		USSR Meterology Equipment 6 Trade Protocol Signed With GDR 6 Gul Gives Press Conference 6 USSR Highway Construction Aid 6 High Official Seeks Refuge 6	1
IRAN			
	Briefs	Jewish Families Leave for Israel 6	.3
PAKISTA	LN .		
	Banglad	lesh: Paper Asks Pakistan To Respect SAARC Spirit (Editorial; SANGBAD, 21 Nov 86)6	,4
	Comment	cary Examines Security Options, Concerns (Rasul Bux Rais; THE MUSLIM, 18, 20 Dec 86)	6
	Comment	caries Examine Relations With USSR (THE MUSLIM, 16 Dec 86; VIEWPOINT, 18 Dec 86)6	; 9
V		MUSLIM on Balanced Foreign Policy, by Maleeha Lodhi Commentary Favors Better Relations 7	59 71

Commentary Welcomes Soviet Afghan Comments	
(Hussain Haqqani; Karachi Domestic Service, 20 Dec 86)	72
Commentary Discusses Prospects for Post-1987 Foreign Aid (Aslam Sheikh; THE MUSLIM, 20 Dec 86)	74
Editorial Cites Foreign Minister on 'Foreign Bases' (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 9 Dec 86)	76
Afghan Government To Build Cultural Centers for Pakhtoons (THE MUSLIM, 18 Dec 86)	78
NWFP Rallies Protest Alleged Anti-Pakhtoon Bias (Rahimullah Yusufzai; THE MUSLIM, 20 Dec 86)	79
JI Said To Oppose Resolution Critical of Zia (Minhaj Barna; THE MUSLIM, 19 Dec 86)	81
Paper Urges Zia To Establish True Civilian Rule (Editorial; THE MUSLIM, 13 Dec 86)	82
Commentary Speculates on Bhutto's Future (THE MUSLIM, 17 Dec 86)	84
Main Features of 9th Amendment Bill Discussed (Ijaz Hussain; THE MUSLIM, 17 Dec 86)	85
Commentary Views National Assembly Session (Anwar Idbal; THE MUSLIM, 21 Dec 86)	87
Demand for Victims of Riots Voiced (THE MUSLIM, 21 Dec 86)	90
Statesman Views Karachi Riots, Pakistan Stability (Editorial; THE STATESMAN, 18 Dec 86)	91
Karachi Riots Termed 'Carnage', Government Criticized (Rahimullah Yusufzai; THE MUSLIM, 21 Dec 86)	93
Commentary Views Ethnic Violence (VIEWPOINT, 18 Dec 86)	95
Daily Comments on 15 Dec Karachi Violence (Editorial; THE MUSLIM, 16 Dec 86)	98
Campus Unrest: Political Parties To Be Approached (Tariq Butt; THE MUSLIM, 18 Dec 86)	100
Lakhra Coal Project Termed 'Feasible' (THE MUSLIM, 20 Dec 86)	101

Revision of Textile Policy Urged (THE MUSLIM, 20 Dec 86)	102
Problems of Irrigation System, Consequences Viewed (THE MUSLIM, 16 Dec 86)	104
Briefs	106
Afghan Refugees Arrive	106
Afghan Refugees Arrive Outgoing Bangladesh Envoy	
Oli Discovered in Badin	106
PRK's Zhao Ziyang To Visit	106
Asian Development Bank Aid Oil Imports From Abu Dhabi	107 107
OII imports from Mod Shasi	
SRI LANKA	
Prices Soar in Jaffna as Shortages Hit	
(AFP, 6 Jan 87)	108
Paper Reports 600 Rebels Captured by Rival Group	
(Anoma Tillekeratne; SUN, 18 Dec 86)	110
India, Gandhi Urged to 'Leash' Tamil Tiger Rebels (Editorial; SUN, 17 Dec 86)	111
Editorial: Tamil Rebels 'Cannibalizing' Own Cause (DAILY NEWS, 18 Dec 86)	113
Voice of Tamil Condemns LTTE's Actions	
(Voice of Tamil Eelam, 9 Dec 86)	115
Tamil Radio Wants Government-Tigers Talks (Voice of Tamil Eelam, 25 Dec 86)	116
Briefs	4
Rival Tamil Groups Clash	117
USSR Aid in Irrigation Projects	117
Separatist Ambush Mars Official Talks	117
Security Forces Raid LTTE Base	118
Tamil Radio Condemns Communist Party	118
'Terrorists' Killed, Captured	119
Efforts To Contact LTTE	119
26 Killed in Batticaloa	120
Diplomatic Relations With Bhutan	120

/7310

1.144

JPRS-NEA-87-011 3 FEBRUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

REGION	JAL AFFAIRS	
	Arab Ministers of Interior Approve Plan To Fight Narcotics (AL-ITTIHAD, 2 Dec 86)	1
	AFP Cites 'Main Points' of OPEC Ministers Communique (AFP, 20 Dec 86)	3
	Bahraini Officials Comment on Significance of Bridge (Habib Ahmad Qasim, Tariq al-Mu'ayyid Interview; AL-MAJALLAH, 15 Dec 86)	5
	Proposals Promoting GCC Industrial Exports (AL-RIYAD, 22 Nov 86)	12
	Briefs Aluminum Production Investment	14
	ARAB AFRICA	
MOROCO	20	
	Party Leaders Interviewed About Ceuta and Melilla (Ben Isa Fasi; AL-MAJALLAH, 3-9 Dec 86)	15
•	Kuwaiti Press Reports on Statement by Doudouh (AL-QABAS, 11 Nov 86)	20
SUDAN		
	SPLA High Command Leader Arok Thon Arok Interviewed (Arok Thon Arok Interview; AL-TADAMUN, 6 Dec 86)	22
	- a -	

. 20
28
28
28
28
29
29
30
30
30
31
32
. 32
32
32
•-
33
36
•
39
39
36) . 42
36) 42
3
3
49
Lewed
Lewed
Lewed 51
Lewed 51
Lewed 51
54 54
54 54
54 54

ISRAEL

	Tehiya Party Leaders, Conflicts Depicted (Ayal Erlich; HA'ARETZ, 21 Nov 86)	56
	Sheqel Devaluation Scheduled for Early 1987 (Shraga Maqel; MA'ARIV, 17 Nov 86)	63
	Briefs Bank Branches in W. Bank Saudi Arabia Aid for Gaza Project New Health Ministry Director Building Project for Hebron Settlers Power Station for Egypt	65 65 65 66
JORDAN		
	Article Reports Economic Development Statistics (AL-MUSTAQBAL, 1-7 Dec 86)	67
	Briefs Import-Export Data	68
LEBANON	1	
	Tripoli Residents Detail Syrian 'Massacre' (Radio Free Lebanon, 22 Dec 86)	69
	Islamic Grouping Urges Dialogue, Security Plan (Beirut Domestic Service, 22 Dec 86)	71
SAUDI A	ARABIA	
	Industry, Commerce Registrar Progress Over 25 Years (AL-MAJALLAH, 10-16 Dec 86)	72
SYRIA	en de la companya de La companya de la co	
٠.	Petroleum Minister Interviewed on Minerals, 0il Reserves (As'ad al-Siman; AL-SIYASAH, 10 Dec 86)	77
	Briefs Syrian Graduates in USSR	81
UNITED	ARAB EMIRATES	
	Japanese Ambassador Notes Decline in Trade (Naji al-Hayik; AL-BAYAN, 21 Dec 86)	82
PEOPLE'	'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN	
	Palestinian Mediation Seeks Solution to Crises (Salih Qallab; AL-MAJALLAH, 28 Nov-2 Dec 86)	83

	Briefs	•
	Cuban Delegation Visit	88
	SOUTH ASIA	
INDIA		
	Reports Link AIDS to U.S. Germ Warfare Experiments (Various sources, various dates)	89
	'More Credible Than Guesswork', Editorial Press Treatment Reviewed, by Gharat Bhushan Health Minister's Remarks	89 90 91
IRAN		
	Foreign Ministry Accused of 'Deviation' in Contacting U.S. (Mesbahzadeh; London KEYHAN, 8 Dec 86)	92
	Clerics' Names on Savak Payroll at Montazeri's Residence (Mesbahzadeh; London KEYHAN, 8 Dec 86)	94
	Gasoline Lines, Other Related Issues Discussed (KEYHAN, 27 Oct 86)	96
NEPAL		
	Private Industry Said To Employ Over One Million People (THE MOTHERLAND, 24 Dec 86)	99
	Commentary Views Plight of Nepalis in India (Editorial; THE MOTHERLAND, 24 Dec. 86)	100
	Salary Increases for Public Servants of All Classes (THE RISING NEPAL, 30 Dec 86)	101
	Government Employees Salaries Raised Commentary Views Raise	101 101
	Arrangements Said Made To Avert Food Crisis (THE RISING NEPAL, 27 Dec 86)	103
	Extension of Small Farmer Project Planned (THE RISING NEPAL, 27 Dec 86)	104
	Briefs Trade Delegation From Tibet	105
PAKISTA	AN	

U.S. Proposal To Station AWACS Crew Criticized (Editorial; JASARAT, 29 Oct 86)

	(Editorial; JASARAT, 3 Nov 86)	108
	Link Between Sind Student Groups, Banditry Pointed Out (Editorial; JASARAT, 19 Oct 86)	110
/7310		

JPRS-NEA-87-012 4 FEBRUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

REGIONA	AL AFFAIRS	
	Soviet Academic Views Aspects of Mideast Situation (Kamran Qurrah Daghi; AL-TADAMUN, 20-26 Dec 86)	1
	ARAB AFRICA	
EGYPT		
	Top Government Official Discusses Policies, Controversies (Yusuf Wali Interview; AL-HAWADITH, 19 Dec 86)	9
TUNISI	A	
	Habib Achour, Thameur Achour Sentenced (LE TEMPS, 14 Dec 86)	15
	Study of Electronic Industry Detailed (LE TEMPS, 6 Dec 86)	17
	Briefs Geothermal Heating Seminar	22
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Governorates Report 1986, 1987 Agricultural Plans (THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER, 25, 28 Dec 86)	23

		23 24
	Jewish Families Leave for Israel	25 25 25
ISRAEL		
	Locally Manufactured Arms Used All Over the Globe (Alex Fishman, Avi Kartin; HADASHOT, 1 Dec 86)	27
	MK Ge'ula Kohen Interviewed on Political, Personal Views (Nahum Barne; KOTERET RASHIT, No 207, 19 Nov 86)	31
	Briefs Soviets May Reestablish Consular Ties 3	9
LEBANON		
	U.S. 'Campaign' Said To Affect Syria's Position in Country (Walid Shuqayr; AL-SAFIR, 15 Nov 86)	0
	Syria Allegedly Behind Al-Salih's Assassination (AL-DUSTUR, 10 Nov 86)4	3
	Ba'th Party Praises USSR Support (AL-SAFIR, 13 Nov 86)	4
	Libya, Algeria, North Yemen Apprised of Amal 'Massacres' (AL-QABAS, 10 Dec 86)	5
	Sha'ban Calls for Nuclear Disarmament (AL-SAFIR, 13 Nov 86)4	6
	General Labor Strike Protests 'Economic Collapse' (AL-QABAS, 10 Dec 86)	.7
	Economic Depression Registers All-Time Low (Ibrahim 'Awdah; AL-TADAMUN, 13-19 Dec 86)	1
	Industrial Exports Up 48.74 Percent in October (AL-SAFIR, 13 Nov 86)	3
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	5

OMAN

	Cooperation With Maldives Initiated (TIMES OF OMAN, 18 Dec 86)	56
UNITED	ARAB EMIRATES	
	Shaykh Khalifah Bin Zayid on Armament, Defense, Economy ('Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan; AL-MAJALLAH, 10-16 Dec 86)	57
•	Briefs Natural Gas Pipeline	63
YEMEN A	ARAB REPUBLIC	
	Benefits From Social Welfare Programs Examined ('Abd al-Wali al-Shami; AL-THAWRAH, 23 Dec 86)	64
	Al-Bayda' Governor Discusses Past, Current, Future Projects ('Ali Ahmad al-Hirazi Interview; AL-THAWRAH, 23 Dec 86)	67
	SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHAN]	ISTAN	
	Relations With Muslim World Reviewed (Gulbeddin Hikmetyar Interview; MILLI GAZETE, 5 Nov 86)	70
BANGLAI	DESH	
	Ershad Message Reaffirms Solidarity With PLO (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 29 Nov 86)	77
	Commonwealth Officials End Conference in Dhaka (THE NEW NATION, 6 Dec 86)	78
	Soviet Envoy Says Dhaka-Moscow Ties Improving (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 4 Dec 86)	79
	Joint Economic Panel With India Issues Press Release (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 4 Dec 86)	80
	Meeting Notes Deficit in Trade With Malaysia (THE NEW NATION, 27 Nov 86)	81
	Text of Joint Communique With Burma (THE NEW NATION, 1 Dec 86)	82
	Japanese Grant To Aid in Wheat Purchase (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 9 Dec 86)	84

Dhaka Signs Cultural Exchange Pact With GDR (THE NEW NATION, 27 Nov 86)	85
Home Ministry Head Reports on Visit to UK (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 2 Dec 86)	86
Canada To Aid Rural Electrification, Railroads (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 29 Nov 86)	87
Report on Ershad's Speech Welcoming Pope John Paul II (THE NEW NATION, 20 Nov 86)	88
Report on OBSERVER Interview With Home Minister (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 27 Nov 86)	89
Economic Council Reviews Progress in Agriculture (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 23 Nov 86)	91
Official Reports Show Food Outlook Promising (Hossain Khasru; HOLIDAY, 5 Dec 86)	92
Government Reviews Chittagong Development Progress (THE NEW NATION, 24 Nov 86)	93
Industrial Development Schedules for 1985-90 Approved (THE NEW NATION, 12 Dec 86)	94
Tea Growers Group Reports Falling Output (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 15 Dec 86)	95
Commercial Flow From Oil Well in Haripur (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 25 Dec 86)	96
Papers Detail, Comment on Cabinet Reshuffle (THE NEW NATION, 1 Dec 86; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER,	07
2 Dec 86)	97
Ministers, Reallocated Portfolios	97
Correspondent's Comment	98
Report on Meeting of BNP Standing Committee (THE NEW NATION, 10 Dec 86)	99
Reportage on Activities of Awami League Leader	
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 7 Dec 86; THE NEW NATION, 7 Dec 86)	100
Speech to Awami Jubo League	100
Meeting With Gandhi	101

•	Jatiya	Secretary General Speaks at Reception (THE NEW NATION, 10 Dec 86)	102
· I	Report	on Meeting of Jamaat Central Committee (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 9 Dec 86)	103
. 1	Reporte	r Notes Effort To Revive Tribal System (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 4 Dec 86)	104
	Briefs		
•		Adviser to Ershad	105
		Awami League (BKSAL) Resolution	105
		Norwegian Annual Grant	105
		Cooperation With FRG	106
		Muslim League Leaders	106
	1000000	Envoy to Austria	106
		Ambassador to Finland	106
		Ambassador to Italy	106
		Communist Party Central Committee	106
		Democratic League Central Committee	107
		Democratic League (Mushtaq) ICD Officials Elected	107 107
٠,		JOD OTTICIATE DICCEC	107
		Polish Ambassador's Credentials	107
		Ambassador to Portugal	100
IRAN	Chah Ba	ahar Terminal To Become Opeational by Year's End (KEYHAN, 19 Oct 86)	109
ā	Medica	1 Facilities Available Only to Cooperative Physicians (KEYHAN, 20 Oct 86)	110
	Partic	ulars of New Plan for Meat Availability Detailed (KEYHAN, 3 Nov 86)	111
	Chicker	n, Egg Rationing Method Announced	
		(KEYHAN, 7 Oct 86)	113
	Briefs		
		Office Supplies Imported in Exchange for Oil	114
		Airbase Telephone Headquarters Inaugurated	114
PAKISTA			
	Rise i	n Cost of Living, Hardships Analyzed (VIEWPOINT, 25 Dec 86)	115
	Ethnic	Violence: Attention to 'Writing on the Wall' Urged (VIEWPOINT, 25 Dec 86)	118
	Commen	tary on Hurs Criticizes Role of Private Armies (VIEWPOINT, 25 Dec 86)	119

JPRS-NEA-87-013 5 FEBRUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

REGIONA	AL AFFAIRS	
	Turkish Paper Reports on Islamic Expansion in Asia (YANKI, 18-24 Aug 86)	1
	ARAB AFRICA	
EGYPT		
	Butrus Ghali Discusses Regional, International Issues (Butrus Ghali Interview; AL-TADAMUN, 13-19 Dec 86)	6
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Briefs Ambassadors Present Credentials Outgoing Argentine Ambassador Ramadan Sends Message to Mikulic	11 11 11
ISRAEL		
	Censorship by IDF Authorities Discussed (GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE, 26 Dec 86)	12
	Briefs Economic Ties Improved Pro-PLO List Wins Positions	15 15

JORDAN

	JERUSALEM STAR: Envoys Will Not Restore U.S. Credibility (Editorial; THE JERUSALEM STAR, 24 Dec 86)	16
	AL-RA'Y Says Murphy's Coming Tour 'Lip Service' (AL-RA'Y, 4 Jan 87)	17
	Commentary on Saudi Denial of Delegation to Egypt (AL-RA'Y, 7 Jan 87)	19
	SAWT AL-SHA'B on Iranian Offensive, Hijacking (Editorial; SAWT AL-SHA'B, 26 Dec 86)	21
	AL-DUSTUR on Iranian Stand on Islamic Summit (Editorial; AL-DUSTUR, 5 Jan 87)	. 23
	AL-DUSTUR Urges 'Unified' Arab Stand Against Amal (Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 23 Dec 86)	24
	Parliament Approves State Budget for 1987 (Amman Television Service, 23 Dec 86)	25
	Committee Discusses Agriculture in West Bank, Caza (PETRA-JNA, 24 Dec 86)	27
	Halhul Mayor Meets Officials on Municipality Needs (Tawfiq 'Abid; AL-DUSTUR, 23 Dec 86)	28
	Briefs Journalists Condemn Haniyah Deportation Gaza Citrus Fruit Exported Gazan's Temporary Passports Allocation of West Bank Oil Britain to Double Aid	29 29 29 29 30
SYRIA		
	Coffee Shortages, Black Market Discussed (Hisham Bashir; TISHRIN, 27 Nov 86)	31
	Reasons for Currency Laws Analyzed ('Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid; AL-MAJALLAH, 3-9 Dec 86)	33
	SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHANI	STAN	
	Article Considers Public Health Conditions in Jowzjan (HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR, 7 Oct 86)	36

E	Conomic Plan for Mineral Exploration Underway (HEYWAD, 10 Nov 86)	38
A	Agricultural Cooperatives Demonstrating Steady Growth (ANIS, 12 Nov 86)	40
C	Cooperative Banks Established in Kabul (HEYWAD, 12 Nov 86)	42
BANGLADE	esh	
F	Papers Report Remarks by BNP Chairman (HOLIDAY, 19 Dec 86; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 12 Dec 86)	43
	'Exclusive' Interview, by Jaglul Alam Speech at Dhaka Meeting	43 44
INDIA		
I	Reportage on Gorbachev Visit Continues (THE HINDU, 10 Dec 86; THE TELEGRAPH, 17 Dec 86)	46
	Former Ambassador's Assessment, by I. K. Gujral Letters to Gandhi	46 49
:	Indo-Soviet Symposium on Natural Products Held (THE HINDU, 9 Dec 86)	50
	Correspondent Reviews Issues of Indo-U.S. Trade Talks (THE HINDU, 4 Dec 86)	51
:	Plans for Improvements in Indian Navy Reported (THE HINDU, 2, 4 Dec 86; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 4 Dec 86)	53
	Chief of Staff Meets Press More on Press Conference More Construction Plans	53 54 55
	Gandhi Addresses Congress-I Parliamentary Party (THE HINDU, 9 Dec 86)	56
	Rao Meets Press After CPI Executive Committee Meeting (Various sources, 10 Dec 86)	58
	Communique Summarized More Details Given Rao on PRC, Other Matters	58 59 60
	Reporter Interviews Punjab Chief Minister	62

	Delhi's New Policy on Microelectronics Scored (THE HINDU, 9 Dec 86)	65
IRAN		
	Commerce Ministry Announces Non-Oil Exports Details (KEYHAN, 21 Oct 86)	68
	Agricultural Exports to Gulf in Millions (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 15 Oct 86)	70
	Protocol Signed With GDR, Hungary for Technology Purchase (KEYHAN, 21 Oct 86)	71
	Volume of Trade With Poland To Increase (ETTELA'AT, 18 Nov 86)	74
	Departing Bank Governor Praised; Successor Introduced (ETTELA'AT, 18 Nov 86)	76
	Succession Struggle Intensifies in Tehran (AL-SABAH, 13 Nov 86)	78
	Opposition Leaders Express Views on Arms Deal Controversy (KEYHAN, 25 Dec 86)	80
	Arrest of Opposition Deputy Reported (KEYHAN, 25 Dec 86)	84
	Khomeyni Excommunicates Resalat Deputies (KEYHAN, 25 Dec 86)	86
	Khomeyni Threatens Resalat Group (KEYHAN, 25 Dec 86)	87
	Deputies Insulted by Signed Scrolls (KEYHAN, 25 Dec 86)	89
	New Chief for Islamic Liberation Movements Appointed (KEYHAN, 25 Dec 86)	90
	Government Attempts To Regulate Physicians Fees (KEYHAN, various dates)	92
	Physicians Compliance Maximum Fees	92 93
	Reduced Fees	93
	Conditions for Sabbatical, Needed Fields of Study Announced (KEYHAN, 4 Sep 86)	95

3	(KEYHAN, 20 Oct 86)	101
	Briefs	100
	Reasons for Delayed Offensive	103
	Military Plants' Production	103
	Rafsanjani at Artillery Factory	104
PAKIST	AN	
	Official's Moscow Visit Analyzed, Change in Policy Urged	105
	(Mushahid Hussain; THE MUSLIM, 22 Dec 86)	105
	Lawbreaking by Dacoit Patrons, Afghan Refugees Discussed	109
. 1	(Editorial; AMN, 26 Nov 86)	109
	Idea of Confederal Structure for Nation Supported	111
٠.	(AMN, 26 Nov 86)	111
	Commentary Discusses Karachi Ethnic Riots	114
	(Khaled Mehmud; THE MUSLIM, 22 Dec 86)	114
	IJT, PSF Members Clash in Mardan	117
	(THE MUSLIM, 22 Dec 86)	11/
	Tribals Plan To Oppose Construction of Road	118
•	(THE MUSLIM, 22 Dec 86)	110
	Briefs	119
	Turkish Minister Meets Khan	119
	'Positive Signals' From USSR, DRA	119
	UNDP Aid	119
	Jamaat-e Islami Assailed	TIS

/9987

.

JPRS-NEA-87-014 6 FEBRUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

DEVELOPMENTS IN SYRIAN TRANSPORTATION

Beirut AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL in Arabic Nov 86[various pages]

CONTENTS

Nation's Historic, Present Role in Transportation Reviewed (Khalil Abu-Zaki)	1
Minister Outlines Plans, Hopes for Transportation Sector (Yusuf Ahmad Interview)	3
Jurisdictions of Transportation Ministry Outlined (Wahid Mas'ud Qasim)	9
Civil Aviation Directorate Updates Nation's Airports	13
Inland Transportation Grappling With Overcrowding, Tourism	16
Maritime Shipping Company Seeks New Ships	18
Leased Ships, Scheduled Lines Used in Maritime Transport	21
Joint Company Serves Syrian, Jordanian Foreign Trade	24
Full Services Being Provided for Ships, Tankers	25
Al-Ladhiqiyah Port's Economic Importance Discussed	27
Historic Port of Tartus Being Updated	30
Broad Jurisdictions of Port Directorate Outlined	32
Rail Network Seen Crucial to Nation's Land Transport	34
Deline d Officials Most in Damasous	36

JPRS-NEA-87-015 6 FEBRUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

Contents

ARAB AFRICA

EGYPT		
	New Oil, Water Sources Discovered in Desert (AL-AHRAM, 5 Jan 87)	1
	Briefs Trade Agreement With France Afghans Detained at Airport Tourism Protocol With Turkey	2 2 2
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Statistics Given for Post-Graduate Studies (Sabah Y. Younan; THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER, 4 Jan 87)	3
	Housing Ministry Implements 1986 Plans (THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER, 28 Dec 86)	4
	Infrastructure Projects Completed in Various Governorates (THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER, various dates)	5
	Housing, Health Projects in Dahuk Service Projects in al-Ta'min, by Sabah J. Abdui-Ahad Education, Service Projects in Maysan Local Government Ministry Projects	5 5 6
	Water Projects Implemented (Sabah J. Abdul Ahad; THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER, 20 Dec 86)	8

	Irbil	Plans for Agricultural Expansion (THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER, 21 Dec 86)	9
	Major	Baghdad Bridge Completed (THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER, 3 Jan 87)	10
	Briefs		
	priers	National Assembly Elects Secretary Al-Sulaymaniyah Infrastructure Projects	11 11
KUWAIT			
	South	Yemen Seeks Better Relations (ARAB TIMES, 24 Dec 86)	12
	Exprop	riation Law Seeks To Stimulate Economy (ARAB TIMES, 16 Dec 86)	13
	South	Korean Tankers To Be Purchased (ARAB TIMES, 30 Dec 86)	14
	Market	To Be Opened to Foreigners (ARAB TIMES, 20 Dec 86)	15
PALEST	INIAN A	FFAIRS A	
	Abu-al	-Za'im Speaks at Length on PLO Affairs (Abu-al-Za'im Interview; AL-TADAMUN, 2 Dec 86)	16
	headli	M: In JPRS NEA-87-003 of 8 January 1987 please change ne of article on p 119 to read: MAGAZINE ACCUSES PRESS HEISTIC' ORIENTATION.	
		SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHAN1		and the second of the second o	
	Afghan	Muslim Leader Seeks Diplomatic Recognition (Gulbeddin Hikmetyar Interview; TERCUMAN, 12 Oct 86)	40
BANGLAD	ESH		
	United	States, Japan Dhaka's Biggest Trade Partners (THE NEW NATION, 8 Dec 86)	41
٠	Papers	Report on Relations With PRC (Various sources, various dates)	42
•		Dinner for NCNA Team	42
		Ershad Opens Bridge Project	43
		Beijing Friendship Hall	44
		Barter Protocol Details Contract on Cargo Vessel	45 46

	Review Shows Decline in Industrial Production (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 16 Dec 86)	47
INDIA		
	IAF Plane May Have Collided With U.S. F-14 (THE STATESMAN, 6 Dec 86)	48
	Gandhi Clarifies New Powers of Arunachal Governor (THE STATESMAN, 9 Dec 86)	50
	CPI Leaders Pleased Over CPSU, CPI-M Rapprochement (THE STATESMAN, 6 Dec 86)	52
	Content of Congress-S, Congress-I Merger Resolution (Arun Sadhu; THE STATESMAN, 8 Dec 86)	54
	Report on CPI-M Leader's Speech in Moscow (THE TELEGRAPH, 13 Dec 86)	56
	Two Accused of Passing Naval Secrets to Pakistan (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 9 Dec 86)	57
	Analyst: Pakistan Fears Over Exercises Unfounded (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 12 Dec 86)	58
,	Students Obstruct Access to Orissa Base Site (THE HINDU, 11 Dec 86)	60
	Army Staff Chief Discusses AWACS for Pakistan, Defense Strategies (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 13 Dec 86)	61
	Negotiations Underway for UK Self-Propelled Artillery Gun (THE TELEGRAPH, 7 Dec 86)	62
	Sikkim Planning To Evict 7,000 Nepalis (THE TELEGRAPH, 11 Dec 86)	63
	Northeast Parties Hold Regional Conference (PATRIOT, 12 Dec 86)	64
	Text of Government Statement Rejecting PRC Protest (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 13 Dec 86)	65
	Government Concerned Over PRC Role in Nepal Projects (PATRIOT, 13 Dec 86)	67
	Papers Report Visit of French Foreign Trade Minister (Various sources, 14 Dec 86)	68
	Interviewed by TIMES, by D. G. Gupte French Credit for India	6 ⁶

(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 5 Dec 86)	70
Troubles in Recovering Debts From Libya, Iraq Noted (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 7 Dec 86)	71
Commerce Minister Clarifies Stand on GATT (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 5 Dec 86)	72
Statistics on Crimes Against Scheduled Castes, Tribes (PATRIOT, 8 Dec 86)	73
Briefs Indo-Soviet Health Accord Austrian Goods Credit Carbon Fiber Plant Indo-Soviet Truck Cooperation Chinese-Marked Weapons Famine in Rajasthan Aid From EEC Aid From Sweden Soviet Submarine Dissident Congress-S Secretaries	75 75 76 76 76 77 77 77
PAKISTAN	
Government Claim of Maintaining Basic Human Rights Refuted (Jumma Khan; AMN, 19 Nov 86)	78
Paper on Indian-Pakistani Military Balance (Jerrold F. Elkin; THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 31 Dec 86)	80
Zain Noorani Reaffirms Stance on Afghanistan (Karachi Domestic Service, 13 Jan 87)	84
Briefs Stand on Territorial Integrity Hungarian Delegation in Islamabad Gaffar Khan Denied Entry Sind Province	85 85 85

/9987

JPRS-NEA-87-016 10 FEBRUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

REGIONA	L AFFAI	RS	
	Libya R	eportedly Releases 20 'Pro-Fatah' Palestinians (AL-ITTIHAD, 26 Dec 86)	1
		ARAB AFRICA	
EGYPT			
	Briefs		2
		Saudi Delegation Arrives	2
LIBYA			
	Tubruq	Meeting Discusses Need To Implement Decisions (JANA, 19 Dec 86)	3
•	Briefs		
		Industrial Cooperation With Sudan	4
		Maltese Minister Departs Tripoli	7
MOROCC	0		
	Stateme	ent by Central Office of Human Rights Association (AL-MASAR, 17 Dec 86)	5
	Statemo	ent by Democratic Labour Confederation (AL-MASAR, 9 Dec 86)	8
	Hunger	Strike at Laalou Prison (AL-MASAR, 17 Dec 86)	12

	Briefs		
		Students Arrested in Oujda	14
TUNISI	.A		
	Mzali	Son-in-Law Charged With Forming Secret Intelligence Network (LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE, 12 Oct 86)	15
	Destou	rian Socialist Party Secretary General Interviewed (Rachid Sfar Interview; DIALOGUE, 3 Nov 86)	17
	Bourgu	iba, Jr. Visits Japan (LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE, 18 Nov 86)	20
	Statis	tics on Chemical Industries (DIALOGUE, 17 Nov 86)	22
	Goals	of Energy Agency (Moncef Ben Abdallah Interview; DIALOGUE, 10 Nov 86)	24
	Scanni	ng Electron Microscope Installed in Monastir (LE TEMPS, 19 Nov 86)	29
	Briefs	Soviet Military Delegation in Bizerte	30
		ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ			
	Soviet	Ambassador in Baghdad on War, Arms Deal (INA, 13 Jan 87)	31
	CPCZ D	elegation Holds Talks With Ba'th Official (INA, 13 Jan 87)	32
JORDAN			
	Jerusa	lem Arabic on Husayn LE MONDE Interview ('Ezra Shirazi; Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World, 14 Jan 87)	33
LEBANO	N .		
	Junbla	tt Predicts Civil War To Last Until 1995 (Salim Nassar; AL-MUSTAQBAL, 20 Dec 86)	35
	MONDAY	MORNING Interview With Fadlallah (Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah Interview; MONDAY MORNING, 29 Dec 86-4 Jan 87)	39

Al-Hashim Optimistic About De-Escalation, Accord With (Joseph al-Hashim Interview; AL-HAWADITH, 2 Jan	87)
Prospects for Nationwide Political, Economic Solutions (AL-HAWADITH, 19 Dec 86)	Reviewed
Briefs Amal Welcomes Summit	
SAUDI ARABIA	
Briefs	
Television Relay Centers	
SYRIA	
AL-THAWRAH Links Murphy Tour To Islamic Summit (Damascus Domestic Service, 10 Jan 87)	
Press Criticizes Murphy Tour of Middle East (Damascus Domestic Service, 9 Jan 87)	• • • • • • •
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN	
Official Arrives in Saudi Arabia (Aden Domestic Service, 26 Dec 86)	•••••
YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC	
Briefs	
President Calls for Arab Summit	
SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHANISTAN 673.4.4.1.	
Press Conference Details Certain PDPA Economic Polici (HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR, 4 Sep 86)	es •••••••
Retail Stores Expanding in Government Sector (HEYWAD, 6 Sep 86)	••••••
INDIA	
Briefs	San Arthur
Haryana Cabinet Changes	
IRAN	
West's 'Propaganda Counterattack' Discussed (ETTELA'AT, 1 Dec 86)	

	(Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami Interview; KEYHAN, 18 Oct 86)	75
C	Official Details Economic Accomplishments, Activities (Haj Seyyed Taqi Khamushi Interview; RESALAT, 8 Nov 86)	79
M	fillions Set Aside for Various Projects in Sistan, Baluchestan (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 1 Nov 86)	86
L	and Deeds Issued to Qualified Farmers (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 1 Nov 86)	88
U	Jnemployment Insurance Bill Detailed (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 1 Nov 86)	91
М	(ETTELA'AT, 30 Nov 86)	96
R	afsanjani Lauds Women's Movement (ETTELA'AT, 1 Dec 86)	99
Н	igh Number of Casualties Reported During Last Attack (London KEYHAN, 8 Jan 87)	102
T	housands Said Sent To Die Due to Group Infighting (London KEYHAN, 8 Jan 87)	104
A	nti-Regime 'Combat Women's Organization' Appeals to UN (London KEYHAN, 8 Jan 87)	106
0	pposition Paper Portrays Gloomy Future for Economy (London KEYHAN, 8 Jan 87)	108
В	riefs Bonus to Wheat Farmers	111
PAKISTAN		
C	ommentary on Government Maltreatment of Political Prisoners (AMN, 16 Nov 86)	112
A	ttention to Public Service Problems in Karachi Urged (AMN, 11 Nov 86)	114

/9987

JPRS-NEA-87-017 17 FEBRUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

ALGERIA		
	Summary of 1987 Financial Law (EL MOUDJAHID, 4 Jan 87)	1
EGYPT		
	Arrest of Communist Network Reported (AL-MUSAWWAR, 19 Dec 86)	8
.·	Religious Leaders Comment on Contributing to Mujahidin (AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH, 27 Dec 86; AL-AHRAM, 2 Jan 87)	10
	Al-Azhar Rector Asks Muslims To Help Mujahidin Mufti Approves Giving Alms to Mujahidin, by Muhammad Yunus	10
	National, Foreign Banks Called on To Aid Specialized Banks (Al-Sirr Hasan Fadl; AL-SIYASAH, 21 Dec 86)	13
SUDAN		
	Briefs Assistance Agreement With PRC	16
TUNISI	A	
	Periodical Analyzes Nation's Foreign Debt (Chedly Ayari; JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE, Nov 86)	1

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

JORDAN		
•		
	Egg Consumption Campaign Creates Controversy (Sa'ad G. Hattar; JORDAN TIMES, 11 Dec 86)	30
	Education Ministry Begins Anti-Illiteracy Campaign (JORDAN TIMES, 8-9 Jan 87)	31
SYRIA		
	the state of the s	
	Major Fuel Oil Diversion Scandal in Damascus Exposed	
	(Nabil 'Izz-al-Din Hama; TISHRIN, 5 Jan 87)	32
	Fodder-Smuggling Gang Apprehended	
	(Nabil 'Izz-al-Din Hama; TISHRIN, 27 Nov 86)	38
	Supply Minister Reviews Quotas of Commodities in Dar'a	
	(Husayn Qasim; TISHRIN, 5 Jan 87)	48
		, •
YEMEN A	ARAB REPUBLIC	
	Army's Self-Sufficiency in Agriculture Reviewed	
	(Tawfiq al-Shaybani; AL-THAWRAH, 15 Dec 86)	5 3
	the first of the state of the s	
	SOUTH ASIA	
	with the first two fields.	
AFGHAN:	ISTAN	
	Role, Activity of Living Council Discussed	
	(ANIS, 2 Nov 86)	59
	(IIII 25, 2 Nov Goy	,,
	Soviets Provide Assistance in Various Economic Projects	
	(HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR, 18 Oct 86)	60
	Vocational Instruction Change To Meet Needs	
	(HEYWAD, 12 Oct 86)	63
•	Fuel of Various Kinds in Plentiful Supply for Winter	
		65
	Land, Water Distributed to Farmers	
	(HEYWAD, 11 Oct 86)	66
	Activities of Various Cooperatives Considered	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	69
		69
		69
		71

	Mechanized Agriculture Expanding in Various Provinces (HEYWAD, 30 Oct 86)	72
	Growth of Minor Industries, Foodstuffs Detailed (HEYWAD, 13 Oct 86)	74
BANGLA	DESH	
	Reportage on Efforts To Contain Border Insurgents (THE NEW NATION, 11 Dec 86; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 9 Dec 86)	76
	Statistics to Amnesty International Accord With India	76 77
INDIA		
	Gurkha Movement Feared Turning to Terrorism (THE STATESMAN, 13 Dec 86)	78
	Police Fear Terrorist Influx From Nepal (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 12 Dec 86)	79
	Britain Urged To Take Firm Steps Against Sikh Activists (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 10 Dec 86)	81
	Activities of TNV Extremists in Tribal Areas (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 11, 13 Dec 86)	82
	Well-Organizes Network Nontribals 'Routinely' Killed	82 84
IRAN		
	Mujahidin Leaders Meet in Qom, Vow To Fight Soviets (ETTELA'AT, 24 Dec 86)	85
	Two Million Afghans, Half Million Iraqi Refugees in Country (ETTELA'AT, 16 Dec 86)	87
-	Supervisor Elaborates on Categories, Condition of Prisoners (ETTELA'AT, 23 Dec 86)	89
PAKIS	TAN	
	U.S. Urged To Give Unequivocal Assurance on Security (Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 7 Dec 86)	94
	Jamaat-e-Islami's Relationship With Regime Analyzed (Trshad Ahmad Haqoani: JANG, 4 Dec 86)	96

(Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 29 Nov 86)	99
Demand for Confederation Denounced as Divisive (Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 3 Dec 86)	100
Sind Racial, Ethnic Tensions Blamed on Government Neglect (Ahmad Riaz Nasim; CHATAN, 21 Nov 86)	102
SRI LANKA	
Delhi Radio Reports 11 Killed as Militants, Security Forces	
Clash (Delhi Domestic Service, 9 Jan 87)	109
Security Forces 13 Jan Successes Reported (LANKA PUWATH, 15 Jan 87)	110
Indian Paper Views Response to Province Merger Idea (THE HINDU, 30 Dec 86)	111
Daily Against 'Direct Talks' With Tamil Group (WEEKEND, 28 Dec 86)	114
Separatist Attack on Telecom Building Repulsed (LANKA PUWATH, 10 Jan 87)	115
/7210	

JPRS-NEA-87-018 19 FEBRUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

EGYPT		
	Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Discusses Strategies (Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr Interview; AL-I'TISAM, Oct-Nov 86)	1
	Islamic Victories in University Elections Discussed (Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud; AL-I'TISAM, Dec 86-Jan 87)	7
	Rightist Opposition Paper Lists Wishes for New Year ('Abd-al-Fattah al-Shurbaji; AL-AHRAR, 5 Jan 87)	15
SUDAN	-	
•	Minister for Peace Interviewed (GUDING STAR, 8 Jan 87)	17
	Bona Malwal Comments on Government and Law (Bona Malwal; SUDAN TIMES, 5 Jan 87)	20
	Briefs Port Sudan Development	23
TUNISI	TA .	
	Bulgarian Official Discusses Mutual Relations (Anguel Dimitrov Interview; DIALOGUE, 8 Dec 86)	24
	Planning, Finance Minister Discusses Tax Reform, Foreign Debt (Ismail Khelil Interview; DIALOGUE, 15 Dec 86)	26

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

art .	Relations With African Nations Expected To Expand (Laszlo Trankovits, Peer Meinert; THE STAR, 9 Jan 87)	34
	Court Precedent May Benefit Arab Loan Applicants (David Rudge; THE JERUSALEM POST, 4 Jan 87)	36
JORDAN		
	Delegation Discusses Trade Issues With Lebanese (AL-HAWADITH, 2 Jan 87)	38
KUWAIT		
	GIO Investments Aim at Strengthening Gulf Economy (AL-QABAS, 29 Dec 86)	3 9
LEBANO	\mathbf{N}	
	Amal Issues Statements Against Al-Qadhdhafi (AL-SAFIR, 23 Dec 86)	44
	Nasirist Organization Calls for Syrian-Backed Truce (AL-SAFIR, 28 Dec 86)	48
	General Reviews Thesis on Deterrent Forces (AL-SAFIR, 28 Dec 86)	50
	Christians Face Critical Situation in Country (Antoine Gemayel; LUXEMBOURG WORT, 12 Nov 86)	54
	Consumer Cooperative Releases Data on Price Explosion (AL-SAFIR, 27 Dec 86)	61
OMAN	en de la companya de La companya de la co	
	Ancient Judicial System Reinstated (Arif Ali; KHALEEJ TIMES, 2 Jan 87)	69
	Deputy Prime Minister Zawawi Presents Budget Overview (KHALEEJ TIMES, 4 Jan 87)	70
	Oil Output Reduced by 5 Percent (Arif Ali; KHALEEJ TIMES, 16 Jan 87)	71
SAUDI	ARABIA	
	Riyad Exhibition Displays Arab Culture in Paris (Sulayman Nimr; AL-MUSTAQBAL, 13 Dec 86)	72

21KTÝ		24 L 6
er.	Deputy Prime Minister Yasin Reveals New Economic Plan (AL-QABAS, 27 Dec 86)	78
e ·	Agriculture, Forestation Plans Set for Dar'a, Hamah Provinces (TISHRIN, 25, 28 Dec 86)	81
	Hamah Forestation, by Mahmud ál-Hammud Dar'a Agricultural Plans, by Muhammad 'Id Musa	81 83
YEMEN A	ARAB REPUBLIC	
	Interior Minister Interviewed on Internal Situation ('Abdallah Barakat Interview; AL-TADAMUN, 20-26 Dec 86)	·• 87
	the control of the co	
	SOUTH ASIA	
IRAN		man production of the state of
	Tehran-Karaj Rail Construction Plan Begins (Keyhan, 26 Nov 86)	92
	Production, Export of New Domestic Renault Announced (Mansur Interview; KEYHAN, 26 Nov 86)	93
	Armenian Community Assists War Efforts; Karrubi Lauds Aid (ETTELA'AT, 6 Dec 86)	98
PAKISTA	AN CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTO	
÷	Forum Blames Government for Present Political Unrest (Tariq Ismail Sagar, et al.; NAWA-I-WAQT, 29 Nov 86)	101
•	Columnist Examines Karachi Riots, Other Issues (AMN, 14, 21 Nov 86)	108
	'City of Problems', by Jumma Khan Government, Leaders 'Paralyzed', by Jumma Khan	108 110
. v -	Causes of Unrest, Political Solutions Examined (Abdul Karim Abid; JASARAT, 14 Nov 86)	113
SRI LA	NKA	
	Process of Tamil-Sinhalese Segregation Emerging (Kalinga Tudor Silva; THE ISLAND, 28 Dec 86)	117
/9987	in the second of	

en de la companya de la co

JPRS-NEA-87-019 24 FEBRUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

T	T	R	v	Δ
	ı.	D	A.	n

	Foreign	Ministry Supports Algerian Proposal on Chad (Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland, 10 Jan 87)	1
	JANA Ed	itor on Anniversary of Drawing 32.5 Parallel	3
	A1-Qadh	dhafi's 'Aggression' in Chad Assailed (Cairo Voice of the Arabs, 13 Jan 87)	5
		Egypt's Attendance at ICO African Leaders' Views on Chad Call for 'Victory' in Ceuta, Melilla Bank Computerization People's Bureau Secretary in Japan People's Congress Secretaries Meet Soviets Visit Oil Center Libyan Shipping Fleet USSR Group Leaves Tripoli Economic, Cultural Agreement With Sudan	7 7 7 8 8 8 8 9 9
MOROCC	0		
	Hassan	II Appoints New Officials, Receives Diplomats (MAP, 17 Jan 87)	10
	Briefs	Hassan Commutes Jail Sentences	11

SUDAN

	Al-Mahdi Inaugurates Agricultural Projects	
	(SUNA, 19 Jan 87) 1	. 2
	SPLA Figure Views Premier's Remarks on Agreement	: :
	(Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army,	
		. 3
	21 Jan 87) 1	ر.
	Briefs	
	'Enemy' Soldiers Killed	5
	SPIA Foreign Attack Corrigon	. 5
		. 5
•		5
		.6
	Students to Libyan Universities	
TUNISIA		
10111012		
	Government Efforts To Unify Trade Union Ranks Reported	
		. 7
	Trade, Financial Agreements With EEC Discussed	_
	(DIALOGUE, 29 Dec 86)	.9
	Briefs	
		22
		22
	2010Battor / 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	22
	Melloul & lardon Empereed	23
	Dougand tareons re-	23
	OUI DACCALIVO DOZCOG	23
•	UGTT Committee Proposes Changes	23
WESTER	N SAHARA	
	Polisario Leader Charges Spain With Selling Weapons to Morocco	
	(Mohamed Sidati Interview; MUNDO OBRERO, 27 Nov 86)	25
	(Monamed Bluatt Interview, Hondo Oblibito, 2, No.	_
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
ISRAEL		
	Content of Arabic Radio Broadcasts Discussed	
	(Khalid 'Abd-al-Qadir; JAYSH AL-SHA'B, 15 Dec 86) 2	28
KUWAIT		
	Finance Minister Addresses News Conference	
	(KUNA, 23 Jan 87) 3	30

	Briefs Infiltrators, Hashish Seized	32
LEBANON		
	Briefs Religious Figure Arrested	33
OMAN		·
	Denmark Proposes Hazardous Waste Disposal Plan (TIMES OF OMAN, 15 Jan 87)	34
	Foreign Minister Visits Closer Links With Denmark Foreseen	34 35
	Joint Commission To Promote Cooperation With Italy (Muzaffar Mohammad; TIMES OF OMAN, 22 Jan 87)	37
QATAR	en de la composition de la composition La composition de la	
	Briefs Large Gypsum Ore Deposits Discovered	38
SAUDI A	ARABIA	
	Aid, Development Programs Not Hindered by Deficit (AL-MAJALLAH, 7-13 Jan 87)	39
	Briefs New Refineries	43
SYRIA		17. d
	Farming Cooperatives in Dayr al-Zawr (Khalil Agtini; TISHRIN, 3 Dec 86)	44
	Briefs Communist Paper Criticizes Government Land Utilization Study Released	50 50
UNITED	ARAB EMIRATES	-
	Thousands of Expatriates Leave Due to Oil Price Drop (TIMES OF OMAN, 8 Jan 87)	51
	SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHAN	ISTAN	
	Fertilizers, Pesticides Distributed to Farmers (HEYWAD, 17 Nov 86)	52
	- c - 83	

	Better, Cheaper Foodstuffs Available Through Cooperatives (HEYWAD, 19 Nov 86)	54
INDIA		
	Analyst Writes on U.S., Indian Relations (Narendra Singh; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 2 Jan 87)	56
	Analyst on Foreign Secretary's U.S. Visit (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 6 Jan 87)	58
	Indo-Soviet Military Cooperation Reviewed (PATRIOT, 7 Jan 87)	59
	Papers Report Aspects of Indo-Soviet Cooperation (Various sources, various dates)	61
	Oil Supply, Construction Aid	61
	Optic Fiber, Other Technologies	62
	Trade in Private Goods	62
	Cooperation Protocol Signed	63
	Cooperation in Medicine	64
	Soviet Scientist Details Cooperation, Joint Research (PATRIOT, 1 Jan 87)	- 65
	Analyst Sees Gains From Soviet Air Chief's Visit (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 19 Dec 86)	67
	Papers Report Developments on Border With PRC (THE HINDU, various dates; THE TELEGRAPH, 30 Dec 86)	68
	Chinese Improve Highway	68
	Indian Officials Confident	69
	Indian Troops' Restraint, by G. K. Reddy	70
	Arunachal Rejects Claim	71
	Visiting Chinese Communists	71
	PRC Silence on Talks	72
	Minister Announces New Export Promotion Schemes	
	(PATRIOT, 3 Jan 87)	73
	Villagers Raise 'Death Squad' To Oppose Evictions, Orissa Range	
	(Debmuni Gupta; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 20 Dec 86)	74
	Official on Research, Satellite Launching Plans	
	(PATRIOT, 6 Jan 86)	76
	Plan Formulated To Strengthen Border Security	
	(THE STATESMAN, 27 Dec 86)	77
	(IIII DIMILIDIMI, 21 Dec 00)	, ,

3	Benga1	Front Releases Corrected Manifesto (THE STATESMAN, 3 Jan 87)	78
\$	Series	Describes Current Situation in Assam (Padmanand Jha; PATRIOT, various dates)	79
]	Reporta	age on Meeting of Bharatiya Janata Council (Various sources, various dates)	85
		National Executive Meeting Advani Addresses National Council Code of Kisan Rights Vajpayee Summing Up Presidential Government Supported More Details Given, by S. Rajappa	85 86 87 88 89 90
	Food M	inister Says Grain Stock Position Satisfactory (THE HINDU, 3 Jan 87)	91
	Former	Congress-I Members Form New Political Party (PATRIOT, 7 Jan 87)	92
	Briefs	Trade With ROK Indo-GDR Trade Talks With Bangladesh Indo-Thai Joint Panel Death of Ambassador French Foreign Minister Raj Narain Dies Chinese Communists' Visit Team in Antarctica Rupee-Ruble Exchange Andhra Pradesh Elections Norway Taxation Pact Godavari Gas Find Renewable Energy Agency Pakistan Fishing Vessels Indo-Bangladesh Repatriation Pact Polisario Embassy	94 94 94 95 95 95 96 96 97 97
IRAN			
	Khome	yni's Son Advocates Restoration of Ties With U.S. (London KEYHAN, 8 Jan 87)	98
	Ahmad	Khomeyni To Become Central Figure (London KEYHAN, 8 Jan 87)	100
	Power	Struggle Behind Mehdi Hashemi's Arrest ('Ali Nuri-Zadeh; AL-DUSTUR, 22 Dec 86)	102

106
107
108
110
111
112
113
115
118
119

JPRS-NEA-87-020 26 FEBRUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

International Affairs

REGIONAL AFFAIRS	
(KHALEEJ TIMES, 2/ Jan 0/)	1
programme and the control of the con	
ARAB AFRICA	
ALGERIA	
Need for Reliable, Speedy Economic Information Stressed (Editorial; EL MOUDJAHID, 2 Jan 87)	2
EGYPT	
Mubarak Views Arab Ties, Gulf War, U.S. Debts (MENA, 19 Jan 87)	4
Mubarak on ICO, Gulf War, Palestinians (KUNA, 19 Jan 87)	6
Islamic Banking Practices Discussed (AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH, 23 Dec 86, 7 Jan 87)	8
Islamic Legal Experts Connected to Banks Criticized, Fahmi Huwayda	8
Experts on Islamic Law Defended, by Shaykh Salah Abu-Isma'il	13
Abu-isma ii Author of the Original Criticism Replies, by Fathi Huwayda - a -	17

	People'	s Assembly Member Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat Interviewed (AL-DUSTUR, 8 Dec 86)	21
	Briefs	Supplies Reportedly Airlifted to Iraq Cease-Fire in Afghanistan Applauded	31 31
SUDAN			
	New Inv	vestment by Arab Development Funds (AL-MAJALLAH, 7-13 Jan 87)	32
TUNISIA	A		
	Popular	Unity Party Conference Results (AL-MUSTAQBAL, 19 Dec 86)	35
	Briefs	Mestiri Meets With Foreign Representatives MDS Member Receives Cuban Ambassador MDS's Presence Overseas ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	37 37 37
ISRAEL			
	Briefs	Tremor in North West Bank Water Supply Coal Purchase From PRC, Poland 1986 Drug Consumption Israeli-Spanish Agreement New Jericho Telephone Exchange Chilean Tender Won 1986 Soviet Emigration Statistics	38 38 38 39 39 39
JORDAN			
	Briefs	Stock Exchange Performance Improves 1986 Currency Reserves	40 40
KUWAIT			
	Banks (Urged To Settle Debts (ARAB TIMES, 13 Jan 87)	41
	Key Int	cerest Rates Reduced (ARAB TIMES, 14 Jan 87)	43

	Use of S	Solar Energy Discussed (ARAB TIMES, 8-9 Jan 87)	44
LEBANO	N		
	Islamic	Jihad Threatens ICO Summit Participants (AFP, 16 Jan 87)	45
	Beirut	Friday Prayer Leader Condemns Murphy Tour (IRNA, 17 Jan 87)	46
	Lebanes	e-Syrian Summit To Be Held 19 or 20 January (AFP, 17 Jan 87)	47
	Briefs	Amal Denounces Hostility Against Foreigners	48
OMAN			
	Oil Mir	nister Interviewed on Policy Issues (Sa'id al-Shanfari Interview; AL-HAWADITH, 12 Dec 86)	49
\	Briefs	Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union Pact	54
SAUDI	ARABIA		
i,	Govern	or Describes Various Al-Kharj Development Plans (Shaykh Hammud Ibn 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Shabib Interview; AL-RIYAD, 21 Dec 86)	55
	Arab I	nvestment Company Approves Projects, Budget (Ahmad al-Shimr; AL-RIYAD, 21 Dec 86)	60
	King I	naugurates New Oil Projects in Aramco Area (Yahya Abu Raddas, Muhammad al-Bassam; AL-RIYAD, 23 Dec 86)	62
	A1-Qas	sim Agricultural Center Holds Training Courses (Hammud al-Rumayh; AL-RIYAD, 21 Dec 86)	65
	Briefs	s Education Ministry Projects	67
SYRI	A		
	Brief	s Cosmonauts To Be Launched	68

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

	Resistance Leader in Favor of Dialogue With Moscow (LIBERATION, 9 Jan 87)	69
	Eyewitness Relates Observations, Judgments (Regis Lansade Interview; SUD-QUEST, 6 Jan 87)	70
	Articles Discuss Women's Experiences in Resistance, Society (LES NOUVELLES D'AFGHANISTAN, No 29-30, Oct 86)	72
	Diverse Roles, by B. Dupaigne Young Girl in Kabul, by B. Dupaigne	72
	Tortured Women, by Fahima Nassery	73
	Children of Exile, by Catherine Chattard	75 78
	Women in Resistance	80
	Women of Bamyan, by Anaik Pellenec	80
	Two Years in Badakhshan, by Anne-Marie Le Magorou	84
	Medical Assistance, by Laurence Laumonier, Catherine	04
	Chattard	88
	Wardak Region, by Chantal Habert	89
	French Medical Teams, by Juliette Fournot	91
	Conversation With Mojaddedi, Sebghatullah Modjaddedi	
	Interview	92
IRAN		2
	Explosions, Shootings Reported in Two Tehran Garrisons (Mesbahzadeh; KEYHAN, 8 Jan 87)	94
	Ex-Army NCO Assassinated in Athens (KEYHAN, 8 Jan 87)	96
PAKISTA	AN CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTO	
	Ahmedi Chief on Community's Persecution, Concerns	
	(Jamal Rashid; VIEWPOINT, 8 Jan 87)	97
	Commentary Terms Ulema's Concerns 'Irrelevant' (VIEWPOINT, 8 Jan 87)	99
	Former Diplomat Offers Views on Domestic, External Crises (VIEWPOINT, 8 Jan 87)	100
	Commentary Analyzes 'Thoughts of Zia' (Ayaz Amir; VIEWPOINT, 8 Jan 87)	103
	List of Political Prisoners Released (VIEWPOINT, 8 Jan 87)	105
/12223	(TENTOTHE, O OUT O// STATES ST	LUJ
	•	

JPRS-NEA-87-021 27 FEBRUARY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ISLAMIC	AFFAIRS	
1	Islamic News Agency in Financial Closure Danger (Amin Hussaini Harun; BERNAMA, 5 Feb 87)	1
	ARAB AFRICA	
EGYPT		
	Salah Abu Isma'il Discusses Achieving Political Power (Al-Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il; AL-AHRAR, 12 Jan 87)	3
	Salah Abu Isma'il Interviewed Following Resignation (AL-MUJTAMA', 23 Dec 86)	14
	Muslim Brotherhood Supreme Guide Addresses Human Rights Meeting (AL-MUJTAMA', 9 Dec 86)	17
	Political Cartoonists Examine Role of Humor in Press (Walid Nayif Muhammad, Majd al-Jadirji; AL-TADAMUN, 29 Nov-5 Dec 86)	19
SUDAN		
	Ummah Election Victory Strains Coalition (Fath-al-Rahman Mahjub; AL-TADAMUN, 10-16 Jan 87)	24
	Army Chief of Staff Interviewed ('Abd-al-'Azim Siddiq Interview; AL-SIYASAH, 28 Dec 86)	2

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

IRAQ		
	Briefs New Oil Pipeline	35
JORDAN		
	Planning Minister Discusses American Role in Development Projects (Tahir Kan'an Interview; AL-TADAMUN, 26 Dec 86)	36
LEBANO	N .	
	Birri Criticizes Al-Qadhdhafi, Supports Syrian Stand (Nabih Birri Interview; AL-SAFIR, 25 Dec 86)	42
SAUDI	ARABIA	
	National Center for Science and Technology Described (Salih al-'Adhal Interview; AL-TIJARAH, Apr 86)	48
PEOPLE	'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN	
	Sons of South Society Disavows Call for Reorganization (AL-AMAL, 5 Dec 86)	58
	Oil Production To Reach 100,000 Barrels Per Day in 2 Years (AL-SIYASAH, 30 Dec 86)	60
	Briefs Nasir Allies Deported	62
	SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHA N1	ISTAN	
	Official Claims Russians Direct Foreign Policy (Abd-u-Samad Sherzai Interview; AFGHAN REALITIES, No 71, 16 Dec 86)	63
	Regime Reportedly Accelerates Propaganda To Seek Support (AFGHAN REALITIES, No 71, 16 Dec 86)	66
	Trade With Soviet Union Expanding (KABUL NEW TIMES, 27 Dec 86)	68
	Education in Paktia Examined (KABUL NEW TIMES, 16 Dec 86)	69

	Soviets Provide Vocational Assistance (Dost Mohammad; KABUL NEW TIMES, 25 Dec 86)	70
	Medicine Production Increases 12 Percent (Zakia; KABUL NEW TIMES, 10 Dec 86)	71
,	Six-Story Flats To Be Built in Microrayon (KABUL NEW TIMES, 9 Dec 86)	72
	Private Sector Finds Support in State (Zakia; KABUL NEW TIMES, 28 Dec 86)	73
INDIA		
	Dissident Communist Groups Decide To Merge (Satyen Dutta; THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, 28 Dec 86)	75
4	Minority Cells Set Up in 17 States and Delhi (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 29 Dec 86)	76
	Report on Bangladesh Protest to India Denied (Zaglul A. Chowdhury; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 29 Dec 86)	77
IRAN		,
	Khamene'i on War, Future Iraqi Government, Regional Issues (Khamene'i Interview; KEYHAN, 9 Nov 86)	78
	Soviet Gains in Gulf Turmoil Created by Regime Predicted (London KEYHAN, 29 Jan 87)	83
	Nemrodi's Views on Country's 'Moderates' Discussed (London KEYHAN, 29 Jan 87)	86
	Fadlallah Affirms Islam a New Power in World Politics (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 4 Dec 86)	88
	Montazeri Advocates Military Training for All (KEYHAN, 1 Dec 86)	90
	Official Announces Harsher Dealings With Drug Smugglers (Hojjat ol-Edlam Ansari Interview; JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 11 Dec 86)	92
PAKIS	STAN	
•	Contact Between Assembly Opposition Group, MRD Reported (Aurangzeb; THE MUSLIM, 25 Jan 87)	95
	Commentary Suggests Ways to Evolve Consensus on Issues (Syed Fakhar Imam; THE MUSLIM, 27 Jan 87)	96

Dacoit	S Said Again Active in Sind (THE MUSLIM, 27 Jan 87)	98
Briefs		
	Action Against Tribesmen Urged	99
	Tribesmen Threaten Civil Disobedience	99
	Zia on Wali Khan	100

/7310

JPRS-NEA-87-022 2 MARCH 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

TUNISIA	Λ	
	Exiled Opposition Figures To Return to Tunisia (AL-WATAN, 14 Jan 87)	1.
	AL-MAJALLAH Interviews Foreign Minister Mabrouk (Hedi Mabrouk Interview; AL-MAJALLAH, 7-13 Jan 87)	2
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Briefs New Oilfields Discovered Ba'th Party Official Dies	. 7 7
ISRAEL	•	
	Poll Indicates Little Change in Political Affiliation (MA'ARIV, 27 Jan 87)	8
	West Bank Settlements Get Preferential Funding (Joel Greenberg; THE JERUSALEM POST, 22 Jan 87)	10
	Efforts To Eradicate Illiteracy Reported Successful (Najwa Najjar; JORDAN TIMES, 21 Jan 87)	12

	Beni Begin Hosts Bibilical TV Show (Greer Fay Cashman; THE JERUSALEM POST, 8 Jan 87)	14
		Τ.
	Briefs	
	Former Leader Operates Radio Station	15
	Cooperation With EEC	15
	Poll Shows Cantonization Favored	15
	Rabin on Defense Cuts Shamir on Relations With Jordan	16
	Hizballah Terrorists Killed	$\frac{16}{16}$
	Merger With Yahad Approved	1.6
	IDF Appointment	1.0
	Chief of Staff Designate Shomron	17
	Hungary To Pursue Relations	17
	Exports to South Africa	17
	Lebanese Workers in Israel	17
	New Air Force Device	18
	Cooperation Agreement With Canada	18
	Poison Gas Factory in Golan	18
	Totaon das ractory in dolan	10
JORDAN		
	AL-RA'Y Warns of 'Malicious' Israeli Propaganda Campaign	
	(Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 9 Jan 87)	19
	(bullottal, hi lui 1,) ball 0//	1,
	AL-RA'Y Comments on Israel's 'Anti-Jordan Campaign'	
	(Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 23 Jan 87)	21
	(,,,,	
	West Bank Program on Problems of Arabs in Occupied Territory	
	(Amman Television Service, 9 Jan 87)	23
	,	
	Amman Radio Carries West Bank Program 13 Jan	
	(Amman Domestic Service, 13 Jan 87)	25
	West Bank Program Discusses Arrest of Arabs in Gaza	
	(Amman Television Service, 23 Jan 87)	27
	West Bank Program Discusses 'Bitter Situation' of Gazans	
	(Amman Domestic Service, 20 Jan 87)	28
	AL-RA'Y Sees Soviet Initiatives Requiring Arab Unity	
	(Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 11 Jan 87)	30
	Commentary on Results of Recent Murphy Visit	
	(Kamil Abu Jabir; JORDAN TIMES, 10 Jan 87)	32
	Phosphate Mines Project Studied	27
	(JORDAN TIMES, 14 Jan 87)	34

	Plans To Reduce Energy Consumption (JORDAN TIMES, 18 Jan 87)	35
	A1-Azraq Oasis Experiences Water Shortages (Monika Warich; THE JERUSALEM STAR, 22 Jan 87)	36
	Crime Statistics for 1986 Provided (JORDAN TIMES, 24 Jan 87)	38
	Editorial Praises Hawke Statements in Israel (AL-DUSTUR, 31 Jan 87)	39
	Briefs Aid to Jerusalem Municipality Electric Company Offer Rejected	40 40
KUWAIT		
	Military Official Describes Saudi Visit as 'Fruitful' (ARAB TIMES, 17 Jan 87)	41
	Attack on Ships Condemned (ARAB TIMES, 17 Jan 87)	42
	Islamic Organization Provides Services to Third World (ARAB TIMES, 18 Jan 87)	43
	Statistics on Foreign Workers (ARAB TIMES, 18 Jan 87)	44
LEBANO	N .	
	Briefs Amal 'Deals With Israel' Accusation	45
SYRIA		
	Daily Comments on Murphy's Mideast Tour (George 'Ayn Malik; AL-BA'TH, 13 Jan 87)	46
	Irrigation Dam Projects Listed (R. Zein; SYRIA TIMES, 12 Jan 87)	48
	Briefs New Railway Projects Forestation Projects	51 51
PEOPLE	'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN	
	Foreign Minister Assesses ICO Summit (Aden Domestic Service, 23 Jan 87)	52

Briefs

	Soviet Economic Official Praised	54
YEMEN	ARAB REPUBLIC	
	Briefs Prime Minister on Islamic Summit	55
	Frime Minister on Islamic Summit	23
	SOUTH ASIA	
INDIA		
INDIA	and the second of the second o	
	Papers Report Developments on Pakistan Border (THE HINDU, 22 Dec 86, 2 Jan 87; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 22 Dec 86)	56
	Indian Exercises, Karachi Reaction, by G. K. Reddy	56
	Pakistan 'Defense Channels'	57
. (*)	Pakistan Maneuvers	5 <i>7</i>
	Arabs Cautioned Against Pakistan Designs at Summit (F. J. Khergamvala; THE HINDU, 25 Dec 86)	58
	CPI, CPI-M Leaders Clash at Moscow Meeting (PATRIOT, 27 Dec 86)	60
	Analyst Writes on Gandhi Speeches in West Bengal (Sumanta Sen; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 23 Dec 86)	61
	Sikkim Leaders in Dilemma Over Nepalese Eviction (THE STATESMAN, 24 Dec 86)	63
	Supreme Court Defines Power To Issue Ordinances (PATRIOT, 24 Dec 86)	64
	India To Purchase UK Combat Tractors (K. N. Malik; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 21 Dec 86)	65
	Agency Notes Concern Over Foreign Trade Balance (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 26 Dec 86)	66
	Mizoram Polls To Take Place by 21 Feb (THE TELEGRAPH, 24 Dec 86)	67
	Changes in Computer Policy Seen Succeeding (THE STATESMAN, 23 Dec. 86)	68

PAKISTAN

(THE MUSLIM, 23 Jan 87)	70
Women's Demonstration Sparks Arrests, by Kamran Khan Sind Chief Minister on Arrests	70 72
Wali Khan Reacts Sharply to Zia's Statement (Rahimullah Yusufzai; THE MUSLIM, 28 Jan 87)	73
Column Examines 'Soviet Factor' in Pakistani Politics (Khaled Mehmud; THE MUSLIM, 23 Jan 87)	75
Commentary Views U.S. Official's Remarks About Aid (THE MUSLIM, 24 Jan 87)	78
Bill To Provide Relief to Martial Convicts (Ashraf Hashmi; THE MUSLIM, 23 Jan 87)	79
NWFP Governor Says Forces in Khyber Agency 'Beefed Up' (THE MUSLIM, 24 Jan 87)	80
Administration Issues Press Note on Khyber Agency (THE MUSLIM, 24 Jan 87)	82
Muhajir Leader Released, Makes Statement (Kamran Khan; THE MUSLIM, 24 Jan 87)	84
Tribesmen Vow To Oppose Tirah Road (THE MUSLIM, 23 Jan 87)	86
Tribal Leader Supports Construction of Tirah Road (THE MUSLIM, 24 Jan 87)	88
Commission Fails To Agree on Taxing Farm Income (Ashraf Hashmi; THE MUSLIM, 29 Jan 87)	90
Official Talks About Fertilizer Needs, Financing (BUSINESS RECORDER, 11 Jan 87)	92
Overseas Pakistani Group Plans Chemical Plant (BUSINESS RECORDER, 12 Jan 87)	93
New Electoral Rolls Said Ready (BUSINESS RECORDER, 11 Jan 87)	94
Increase in 1986 Exports Reported (RUSINESS RECORDER, 12 Jan 87)	96

Revised Kalabagh Dam Plans Sent to Provinces (BUSINESS RECORDER, 13 Jan 87)	97
Commentary Views, Faults Energy Conservation Efforts (BUSINESS RECORDER, 13 Jan 87)	98
Minister Talks About Code of Ethics for Press (THE MUSLIM, 28 Jan 87)	100
Briefs 10th Constitution Amendment Bill Political Prisoners' Health	102 102
SRI LANKA	
Daily Against 'Direct Talks' With Tamil Group (WEEKEND, 28 Dec 86)	103
Tamil Radio Scores Militants, Government (Voice of Tamil Eelam, 22 Jan 87)	105
Delhi: 11 Killed as Militants, Security Forces Clash (Delhi Domestic Service, 9 Jan 87)	106
Security Forces 13 Jan Successes Reported (LANKA PUWATH, 15 Jan 87)	107
LTTE Commander, Others Killed 23 Jan (LANKA PUWATH, 24 Jan 87)	108
Indian Paper Views Response To Province Merger Idea (THE HINDU, 30 Dec 86)	109
Marxists Reported Combining Efforts Aimed at Destabilization (LANKA PUWATH, 24 Jan 87)	111
Sri Lankan, MPR Foreign Ministers Exchange Greetings (Colombo International Service, 3 Feb 87)	112

/12223

JPRS-NEA-87-023

3 MARCH 1987

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NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TO BE THE PARTY OF THE

MENIAN AFFAIRS	
Rafsanjani Said To Be Chief of Islamic Jihad Organization (MARMARA, 25 Nov 86)	1
ASALA Representative Threatens Turkey (MARMARA, 11 Nov 86)	2
PLO Representative in Ankara Refutes ASALA Claims (MARMARA, 12 Nov 86)	3
ASALA Blasted by Leader of Splinter Group (JAMANAK, 31 Oct 86)	4
Briefs Melbourne Turkish Consulate Explosion Arrest	ϵ
e de la composition della comp	
GERIA	
Changes in Export Policy Discussed (A. Bahmane; EL MOUDJAHID, 8 Jan 87)	
SYPT	
Nature of Nasirist, Islamist Contacts Discussed (AL-HAWADITH, 9 Jan 87)	,

SUDAN

	Minist	er of Foreign Affairs Interviewed (Al-Sharif Zayn-al-'Abidin al-Hindi Interview; KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, 10 Jan 87)	14
· .	Briefs	Southerners Demand Three Governorates	19
TUNISI	A		
	Morocca	an Opposition Leader Addresses MDS Conference (AL-MUSTAQBAL, 30 Jan 87)	20
		ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
JORDAN		•	
	Crop Re	eallocation Plan Discussed (JORDAN TIMES, 3 Jan 87)	23
	Phospha	ate Production Increases (JORDAN TIMES, 28 Jan 87)	25
,	Poultr	y Industry Statistics Given (JORDAN TIMES, 4 Jan 87)	26
LEBANO	N		
	UNIFIL	Commander Hagglund Blasts SLA After Irish Soldier's Death (HELSINGIN SANOMAT, 18, 21 Jan 87)	27
		Resort to Weapons Considered, by Jussi Vuotila SLA Commander Lahd Replies	27 29
	Kayruz	Discusses Value of Currency (George el-Hachem; MONDAY MORNING, 26 Jan 87-1 Feb 87)	31
	Centra	l Bank Response To Sharp Drop in Pound Reviewed (Ibrahim 'Awwadah; AL-TADAMUN, 27 Dec 86-2 Jan 87)	33
	Politi	cal, Religious Leaders Denounce Qadhdhafi Statement (AL-SAFIR, 23 Dec 86)	36
	Interv	iew With Munal al-Sulh (Amal Fadlallah; MONDAY MORNING, 26 Jan 87-1 Feb 87)	41
	Interv	iew With Albert Mansur	46

	Ja'Ja' Meets Press: Comments on Summit (MONDAY MORNING, 19-25 Jan 87)	51
•	Domestic Dilemmas, Palestinian Role Examined (AL-HAWADITH, 26 Dec 86)	52
SOUDI	ARABIA	
,	OPEC Sets New Price, Production Quotas ('Adil Murad; AL-TADAMUN, 10-16 Jan 87)	58
YEMEN	ARAB REPUBLIC	
	President Discusses Economic Accomplishments, Goals ('Ali 'Abdallah Salih Interview; AL-THAWRAH,	61
	IBB Province Acquires New Schools, More Public Utilities (AL-THAWRAH, 27 Dec 86)	64
	Sanaa Hosts International Conference on Barren Land Reclamation (AL-JUMHURIYAH, 7 Jan 87)	67
	Facts, Figures Pertaining to Ma'rib Dam (AL-THAWRAH, 29 Dec 86)	72
	SOUTH ASIA	÷
INDIA		
	Paper's Commentator Discusses Rajiv's Performance (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, various dates)	75
	Focus on Economy Future Moves Contemplated Strengthening of Congress-I Cooperation With Opposition Public Image Discussed	75 76 77 78 79
	Gandhi Gives Interview to West German Paper (PATRIOT, 20 Dec 86)	81
	Analyst Reports Solarz Talks With Indian Leaders (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 16 Dec 86)	82
	Reportage on 33d Session of AITUC (PATRIOT, 19, 20 Dec 86)	84
	WFTU Secretary Speaks	84 84

	Press Reports Janata Meeting, Other Activities (Various sources, various dates)	85
	13 Dec Executive Meeting Chandra Sekhar Meets Press Front With Mukherjee Party	85 86 87
	Briefs Naval Port Defense	88
I RAN		
	U.S. Arms Sales Controversy, Rafsanjani's Role Discussed (MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY, 13 Dec 86)	89
	More Weapons Deals Alleged Speaker Gives 'Go÷Ahead'	89 90
	War Takes Priority in New Budget (KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, 3 Jan 87)	91
	Eyewitness Account of Conditions Prevailing in Country (MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY, 13 Dec 86)	96
	Economic Picture 'Bleak', by Vahe Petrossian Markazi Relaxes Spending Grip Support for Iraqi Opposition	96 98 98
	Gulf War, Status of Two Sides, Implications Examined (David Butter; MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY, 17 Jan 87)	100
	Industrial, Commercial Activities, Exports-Imports Reported (MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY, 17 Jan 87)	103
	Briefs Contacts on Afghanistan Turkish Headscarf Decision	104 104
NEPAL		
	Briefs King Asks for 'Democracy'	105
SRI LA	NKA	
	LTTE Second-in-Command Arrested (Norman Palihawadana; THE ISLAND, 30 Jan 87)	106
	Briefs Sinhala-Tamil Extremist Contacts	107

JPRS-NEA-87-024-A 4 MARCH 1987

Near East/South Asia Report

TABLES OF CONTENTS

JPRS-NEA-86-079, 1 JULY 1986
JPRS-NEA-86-110, 5 SEPTEMBER 1986

JPRS-NEA-87-024-B 4 MARCH 1987

Near East/South Asia Report

TABLES OF CONTENTS

JPRS-NEA-86-111, 6 SEPTEMBER 1986
JPRS-NEA-86-155, 30 DECEMBER 1986



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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JPRS-NEA-87-025 5 MARCH 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

SUDAN		
	SPLM Official Joseph Oduho Interviewed (Arop Madut; HERITAGE, 12 Jan 87)	1
	SPLA Reasons for Continuing War Reported (SUDAN TIMES, 22 Jan 87)	7
	Islamization of Hotels Reported (SUDAN TIMES, 23 Jan 87)	9
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Reporter Describes Conditions Along Northeast Border (Ibrahim al-Burjawi; AL-TADAMUN, 10-16 Jan 87)	11
•	New Irrigation Project Described (Amuri al-Rimahi; AL-TADAMUN, 10-16 Jan 87)	14
	Peshmerge Declare Friendship for Turkey (Sehnaz Kaplan; TERCUMAN, 7-12 Oct 86)	16
ISRAEL		
	Khalil Karsu' Interviewed on Economy in Occupied Territories (AL-NAHAR, 19 Sep 86)	29
	Cairo-Amman Bank's Services for West Bank Citizens Discussed (AL-NAHAR, 26 Sep 86)	34

A	gricultural Agreements With East Europe Possible (DAVAR, 7 Jan 87)	37
No	egev Mountain Oil Exploration To Begin (HA'ARETZ, 5 Jan 87)	38
KUWAIT		
Gı	ulf States To Establish Unified Currency System (ARAB TIMES, 28 Jan 87)	39
SI	hipping Industry Activities Outlined (Seyassah; ARAB TIMES, 25 Jan 87)	40
YEMEN AR.	AB REPUBLIC	
M	abyan Local Council Implements Variety of Projects (AL-THAWRAH, 11 Jan 87)	43
	SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHANIS	TAN	
I	slamic Groups Provide Relief to Refugees, Mujahidin (ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW, No 64, Dec 86)	47
INDIA		
С	orrespondents Speculate on State Elections (THE HINDU, 28 Dec 86; THE TELEGRAPH, 31 Dec 86)	50
	State Leaders' Preferences, by G. K. Reddy Further Details	50 51
W	Test Bengal Left Front Issues Election Manifesto (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 29 Dec 86)	52
М	ajor Reshuffle in Rajasthan Cabinet Reported (PATRIOT, 4 Jan 87)	53
P	olitical Qualifications of Amrinder Singh Noted (G. KReddy; THE HINDU, 11 Dec 86)	54
, P	ress on Negotiations To Purchase U.S. Supercomputer (THE HINDU, various dates; PATRIOT, 4 Jan 87)	56
	Dean, Venkateswaran Talks, by G. K. Reddy Indian Negotiators 'Oversecretive', by G. K. Reddy Joint Maintenance Planned, by G. K. Reddy Communist Paper on Snags	56 57 58 59

	керог	(THE HINDU, 28 Dec 86)	61
	Papers	Report Predictions on 1986-87 Economy (THE TELEGRAPH, 22 Dec 86; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 31 Dec 86, 3 Jan 87)	63
		Council of Applied Economic Research Leading Economist's Prediction Reserve Bank of India	63 64 65
	Papers	Report, Comment on Islamabad Talks (Various sources, various dates)	66
		India's Stand Explained, by G. K. Reddy Report on 27 Dec Talks 'Little Headway' Noted, by V. T. Joshi Gandhi To Visit Pakistan Analyst Discusses Outcome by G. K. Reddy	66 67 68 69
•		Analyst Discusses Outcome, by G. K. Reddy	פס
	Briefs	Soviet-Aided Power Project Foreigners in Sikkim Andamans Development Package Haryana Opposition Front Nordic Bank Loan Thai Fishing Vessels Bangladesh Trawlers Seized New Chief Justice	71 71 72 72 72 72 72 73
TDAN		New Chief Sustice	13
IRAN	Tehran	Terms Iraqi, U.S. 'Propaganda' 'Foolish' (Tehran Domestic Service, 12 Jan 87)	74
	KEYHAN	Interviews UN Ambassador on Iran-U.S. Contacts (Raja'i Khorasani Interview; KEYHAN, 3 Jan 87)	76
	KEYHAN	Hits USSR 'Defense of the West' (Editorial, Mohammad 'Ali Mo'ali; KEYHAN, 1 Jan 87)	81
•	Saddam	Husayn Visits Fronts in 'Futile' Efforts (IRNA, 12 Jan 87)	84
	Irania	un Mission Condemns Soviet Stance on War (Tehran Domestic Service, 11 Jan 87)	86
	Khomeyr	ni Warns of Perverse Trends in Qom Seminary (IRNA, 25 Jan 87)	87
	Envoy	to Greece on Security of Persian Gulf (IRNA, 19 Jan 87)	88
		- c - 111	

	$oldsymbol{y}$	
	Tehran Reports Combat Operations by Iraqi Kurds (Tehran Domestic Service, 15 Jan 87)	89
	Moslems React to Iraqi Air Raids on Qom (TEHRAN TIMES, 17 Jan 87)	90
	Commerce Minister Details Results of New Economic Program (KEYHAN, 1 Dec 86)	91
	Briefs Turkey's Muslim Violations Condemned	100
PAKIST	AN	
	Decrease in Import of Foreign Products Urged (Irtaza Haidar; MASHRIQ, 14 Nov 86)	101
/7310		

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

EGYPT

Mubarak Views Arab Ties, Gulf War, U.S. Debts (MENA, 19 Jan 87)	1
Abu Ghazalah Comments on Gulf War (MENA, 20 Jan 87)	3
Mubarak, KULL AL-'ARAB Interview (Muhammad Husni Mubarak Interview; AL-JUMHURIYAH, 25 Jan 87)	5
Egyptian Information Head Interviewed on Summit (Mamduh al-Biltaji Interview; AL-MAJALLAH, 7 Jan 87)	14
Paper Notes U.S. Moves To Boost Gulf Presence (Jalal 'Abd al-Fattah; AL-WAFD, 15 Jan 87)	17
AL-AHRAM Hits Syrian Policy Toward Egypt (Ibrahim Nafi'; AL-AHRAM, 16 Jan 87)	19
AL-AKHBAR on Syria's 'Anti-Muslim Massacres' (Ahmad Zayn; AL-AKHBAR, 21 Jan 87)	22
Egypt's 'Abd Al-Majid on Foreign Policy, Arab Relations ('Ismat 'Abd al-majid Interview; AL-SIYASAH, 13 Jan 87)	24
Abu Ghazalah Links Security to Gulf Stability (Cairo Domestic Service, 19 Jan 87)	27
Mubarak Addresses NDP Artisans' Conference (Cairo Domestic Service, 22 Jan 87)	28

AL-SH'AB Reacts to Nafi' Article on Military Debts (Majdi Ahmad Husayn; AL-SH'AB, 13 Jan 87)	30
Problem of Unemployment of University Graduates (Salah Muntasir; AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI, 18 Jan 87)	32
Public Sector Reforms Proposed (Ayman Mustafa; AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI, 16 Jan 87)	34
North American Edition of AL-AHRAM (Editorial; AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI, 18 Jan 87)	36
Briefs U.S. Milk Blamed in Poisoning Cases Delegation Visits Algeria New Ferry Line USSR Cooperation Agreement Economic Protocol With Uruguay Mubarak Confers With Bahraini Amir	38 38 38 39 39
Andrew Confers with Bantaini Amir	3,
NFSL Official Ibrahim Sahd Interviewed (Jamal Isma'il; AL-DUSTUR, 2 Feb 87)	40
ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
Peres Said To Be Remote, Inaccessible to Ministry Aides (Benny Morris; THE JERUSALEM POST, 9 Jan 87)	52
Saudi Arabia Renews Aid to Territories (THE JERUSALEM POST, 14 Jan 87)	54
Establishment of English University Under Consideration (Aryeh Rubinstein; THE JERUSALEM POST, 9 Jan 87)	55
Lake Kinneret at Record High Level (Ya'acov Friedler; THE JERUSALEM POST, 11 Jan 87)	56
New Book Records Aid to Lebanon's Islamic Rescue Front (AL-SIYASAH, 15 Oct 86)	57
Chairman of Industrial Investments Company Interviewed (Talib Ahmad 'Ali Interview; AL-QABAS, 28 Jan 87)	59
	(Majdi Ahmad Husayn; AL-SH'AB, 13 Jan 87) Problem of Unemployment of University Graduates (Salah Muntasir; AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI, 18 Jan 87) Public Sector Reforms Proposed (Ayman Mustafa; AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI, 16 Jan 87) North American Edition of AL-AHRAM (Editorial; AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI, 18 Jan 87) Briefs U.S. Milk Blamed in Poisoning Cases Delegation Visits Algeria New Ferry Line USSR Cooperation Agreement Economic Protocol With Uruguay Mubarak Confers With Bahraini Amir NFSL Official Ibrahim Sahd Interviewed (Jamal Isma'il; AL-DUSTUR, 2 Feb 87) ARAB EAST/ISRAEL Peres Said To Be Remote, Inaccessible to Ministry Aides (Benny Morris; THE JERUSALEM POST, 9 Jan 87) Saudi Arabia Renews Aid to Territories (THE JERUSALEM POST, 14 Jan 87) Establishment of English University Under Consideration (Aryeh Rubinstein; THE JERUSALEM POST, 9 Jan 87) Lake Kinneret at Record High Level (Ya'acov Friedler; THE JERUSALEM POST, 11 Jan 87) New Book Records Aid to Lebanon's Islamic Rescue Front (AL-SIYASAH, 15 Oct 86) Chairman of Industrial Investments Company Interviewed

		tee Formed To Develop Islamic Curriculum	
		(AL-SIYASAH, 13 Oct 86)	63
	Briefs	and the state of t	
	212020	Arab Food Industry Conference	66
		Economic Agreement With Jordan	66
	•		
		Security Officers Conference	66
AUDI	ARABIA		
	Indust	ry Flourishes at Home, Fails To Reach Foreign Markets	-
		(AL-MUSTAQBAL, 17 Jan 87)	68
		and the contract of the contra	* •
•		SOUTH ASIA	
NGLA	DESH		
•			
. :	Format	ion of New Democratic Front Announced	
:		(HOLIDAY, 16 Jan 87)	72
	mi. i . i	E Van Dien in Muselie De en Desiri	
	inird	5-Year Plan in Trouble, Faces Revision	
		(Quamrul Islam Choudhury; HOLIDAY, 26 Dec 86)	74
	Papers	Report Conference of Jamaat-e-Islami	
•	rupero	(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 26, 29 Dec 86; THE NEW NATION,	
		28 Dec 86)	76
		Acting Amir Speaks	76
		Concern Over Economy, Terrorism	76
		More on Resolutions	77
	_		
	Papers	Report Talks on Bangla-Soviet Trade Protocol (HOLIDAY, 16 Jan 87; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 19 Jan 87)	78
		Improvement Needed	78
		Protocol Signed	78
	Indian	External Affairs Minister Visits Dhaka (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 8, 9 Jan 87; HOLIDAY,	•
		16 Jan 87)	80
			.,0
14 h		Talka With Englad Paraian Minister	00
		Talks With Ershad, Foreign Minister	80
		Joint Press Conference	80
		Problems With India, by Ahmed Fazl	81
	_	and the contract of the contra	
	Report	age on Visit of PRC Chief of General Staff	
	•	(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, various dates; THE NEW NATION,	
		9 Jan 87)	84
			- '
		Arrival 7 January	84
		Meeting With Ershad	84
		and the second of the second o	
		- υ - - 11 ε	
		TIO	
•			

Ershad Hosts Dinner Visits to Bases 11 January Departure	85 86 86
Awami League Holds First Council Session Since 1981	
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 2, 3 Jan 86; THE NEW NATION,	
various dates)	87
Sheikh Hasina Opens Meeting	87
2 Jan Meeting Reported More Details on 2 Jan Meeting Meeting Ends, New Officials	88 88 89
Dissidents Organize	90
Political Resolution Reported (2) 2000 (2) 212 (4) 2000	91
Bengali Daily Scores Government Action Against BNP (Editorial; SANGBAD, 26 Jan 87)	92
Paper Reports BNP Standing Committee Meeting (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 14 Jan 87)	94
Directives on Court Jurisdiction Stir Resentment (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 26 Dec 86, 14 Jan 87)	95
Powers Defined Bar Association Reaction	95 95
Gap in Food Availability, Requirements Remains High (Quamrul Islam Choudhury; HOLIDAY, 16 Jan 87)	97
Report on Talks Between Ershad, NCNA Delegation (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 24 Dec 86)	98
Correspondent on Condition of Stranded Pakistanis (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 24 Dec 86)	99
Details of Pact on Tribal Refugees' Repatriation (THE NEW NATION, 1 Jan 87)	100
Ershad Inaugurates Antismuggling Conference (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 11 Jan 87)	101
Irregularities in Assignments Trouble Foreign Service (HOLIDAY, 26 Dec 86)	102
Many Civil Servants Dismissed Under Martial Law (THE NEW NATION, 25 Dec 86)	103
Asian Development Bank Lending Slows Down	104

	(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 31 Dec 86)	105
•	FRG Wheat Grant, Food Situation Discussed (THE NEW NATION, 6 Jan 87)	106
	Minister Announces End of Public Sector Subsidy (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 14 Jan 87)	107
; ::: ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	Committee To Harness Oil Resources Planned (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 29 Dec 86)	108
	Dhaka's First Marine Fishing Policy Announced (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 2 Jan 87)	110
	Commerce Minister Tells of Fall in Exports (THE NEW NATION, 7 Jan 87)	111
.''	Briefs Delegation in Pakistan Death for Smugglers	112 112
INDIA	Assam Nepalese 'Dismayed' Over Gandhi Statement	
	(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 1 Jan 87)	113
	Analyst Writes on Selection of Team for Hanoi (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 5 Jan 87)	114
	India, Qatar Sign Pact on Hydrocarbon Resources (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Jan 87)	116
	CPI-M Registers Impressive Win in Tripura Election (PATRIOT, 6 Jan 87)	117
	Congress-I Reported To Begin Search for Singh Successor (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 5 Jan 87)	118
w	Alleged Pakistani Spies Arrested in Jammu (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Jan 87)	119
/9986	n de la companya de La companya de la comp	

The comparation of the property of the comparation of the comparation

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

REGIONAL	AFFAIRS

EGYPT

AL AFFAIRS	
Egyptian Expert Reviews Strategic Considerations of Red Sea (Muhammad Hafiz Isma'il; AL-BAHITH AL-'ARABI, No 10, Jan-Mar 87)	1
Western Concerns Over Bab El Mandeb Reviewed (William Hale; AL-BAHITH AL-'ARABI, No 10, Jan-Mar 87)	20
Soviet Scholar Reviews Nation's Strategy in Bab El Mandeb Area (Robert Markarian; AL-BAHITH AL-'ARABI, No 10, Jan-Mar 87)	26
Sudanese Scholar Discusses Circumstances in Strait, Horn of Africa (Muhammad Bashir Hamid; AL-BAHITH AL-'ARABI, No 10, Jan-Mar 87)	34
Former Egyptian Defense Minister Reviews Problem of Strait (Amin Huwaydi; AL-BAHITH ΛL-'ARABI, No 10, Jan-Mar 87)	47
Economist Reviews Arab Subordination to American Policy, Interests (Midhat Ayyub; AL-BAHITH AL-'ARABI, No 10, Jan-Mar 87)	57
Briefs Israel Protests Egyptian Play	70
ARAB AFRICA	
Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Interviewed (Muhammad 'Abdallah Interview; AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, 26 Jan 87) - a -	71

	Parliamentarian Discusses Arab Affairs (Muhammad Hamid Mahmud Interview; AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, 26 Jan 87)	73
	Women Comment on Proposed Change in Assembly Seats ('Iman Ruslan; AL-MUSAWWAR, 2 Jan 87)	76
	New Mufti Discusses Calendar, Extremism, Islamic Law (Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi Interview; UKTUBAR, 18 Jan 87) .	78
	Briefs New Religious Centers	84
TUNISIA		
	Foreign Relations, Domestic Changes Discussed (Hedi Mabrouk Interview; AL-SABAH, 23 Jan 87)	85
		٠
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	Destroy.
ISRAEL		
	West Bank Industrialist Profiled (Kamal Hasuna Interview; AL-NAHAR, 10 Oct 86)	91
UNITED	ARAB EMIRATES	
	Gulf Summit To Revitalize Economy (AL-TADAMUN, 6-12 Dec 86)	97
	Shippers Attracted to Dubayy by Low Customs Duties (Wajdi Ratib; AL-ITTIHAD, 5 Jan 87)	98
	Briefs	
	Imports Rise, Exports Decline	99
	SOUTH ASIA	٠,٠
PAKISTA	AN	
	Confederation Idea Elaborated, Defended (Mumtaz Bhuto Interview; HURMAT, 19-25 Nov 86)	100
	SBPF Leader Makes Scathing Anti-Punjab, Anti-Benazir Remarks (Abdul 'Hafiz Pirzada Interview; HURMAT, 10-17 Dec 86)	106
	Lack of Real Change Pointed Out in New Cabinet Composition (Editorial; AMN, 24 Dec 86)	115
	Government Cleanup Effort at Sohrab Goth Criticized (Editorial; AMN, 21 Dec 86)	117
/7310	- b - 120	

JPRS-NEA-87-028 12 MARCH 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

ALGERIA

	Foreign Minister Looks to North-South Dialogue (Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi Interview; REVOLUTION AFRICAINE, 16 Jan 87)	1
	Human Rights Developments Discussed (LE MONDE, 17, 18 Dec 86)	10
	League President Arrested	10
t.,	Further Arrests Reported, by Jean de la Gueriviere	11
: •	Investigation of Constantine Riots Focuses on Marxist Circles (Frederic Fritscher; LE MONDE, 13 Dec 86)	13
et et	Commercial Sector, Supply, Distribution Problems Discussed (ALGERIE ACTUALITE, 1 Jan 87)	15
SUDAN		
	Attempts To Restore Confidence in Banks (AL-SIYASAH, 28 Dec 86)	18
• • • • •	Projects To Insure Food Supply Described (AL-SIYASAH, 31 Dec 86)	20
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
ISRAEL		
٠.	Yahad Merger With Labor Approved, Controversial (Sarah Honig; THE JERUSALEM POST, 16 Jan 87)	22
	- a -	

	Briefs	
į.	Military Training for JDL and the second of the second	23
	Secret Saudi Submarine Plans	23
	Mass Firings at IAI	24
	Budget Problems Affect Submarine Building	24
	Joint Antarctic Effort With South Africa	25
	JOHNE AMERICETC EFFORE WITH BOREN MITTOR	25.3
LEBANC	ON	
	'Camps War' Expected To Invite Pan-Arab Interference	
	(Husayn Hassun; AL-TADAMUN, 20-26 Dec 86)	26
٠		
	Chamber of Deputies Speaker Discusses Country's Crisis	00
	(Husayn al-Husayni Interview; AL-HAWADITH, 19 Dec 86)	29
		3.7
	Banks Allegedly Conspire To Devaluate Pound	
	(Sa'id 'Alam-al-Din; AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI, 10 Nov 86)	35
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
OMAN		
	Information Minister Discusses Media Code of Honor, Gulf War	
	('Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas Interview; AL-HAWADITH,	
	19 Dec 86)	38
SAUDT	ARABIA	
DITODI	The state of the s	
	Saudis Renefit Little From Expatriate Expertise	
	('Abdallah al-Zahrani; AL-RIYADH, 3 Jan 87)	45
	Briefs to the Discount of the Control of the Contro	
	Budget Appropriations Listed	48
YEMEN	ARAB REPUBLIC CONTROL	
	President Approves Training Agreement Financing	49
	(AL-THAWRAH, 25 Jan 87)	49
		e ve
	Various Projects Opened in al-Hajariyah District of Ta'izz	E 1
	/ AT _TUALIDAU 10 (an X/)	51
	General Management Institute Serves National Goals	<i>-,</i>
	(Mathar al-Kabsi Interview; AL-IRSHAD, Nov 86)	54
	。	
	Naval Academy Achievements Cited at Graduation Excersises	
	(AI - TAYSH Oct 86)	61
: *	Status of Military Model Farms Reviewed	
	(Mahdi Muhsin 'Ayna': AL-THAWRAH, 21 Jan 8/)	- 69
	Rriefs	
	Briefs () () () () () () () () () (
	West German Training Aid	72
	Kuwait Electricity Loan	72
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

SOUTH ASIA

AI GIMI		132
	Various Aspects of Guerrilla Struggle Reviewed (KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, various dates)	74
	Jalalabad Irrigation Project Essential to Country's Economy (HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR, 4 Dec 86)	88
INDIA		
	Details of Protocol With GDR Given	
	(PATRIOT, 1 Jan 87)	90
	Congress-I Leads in Karnataka Elections (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 4 Jan 87)	91
	Bharatiya Janata President Addresses Party Workers (Prakash Joshi; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 4 Jan 87)	92
	Problem of Aiding Industry Faced in Budget Planning (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 2 Jan 87)	93
•	Papers Report, Comment on Arrival of MiG-29 (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 4 Jan 86; THE HINDU, 4 Jan 87)	95
	PTI, UNI Report Comparison With F-16 Possible, by G. K. Reddy	95 - 96
	GNLF 'Takes Over' All Pro-Gurkhaland Organizations (THE HINDU, 29 Dec 86)	97
IRAN		
	Technical, Agricultural Complexes Planned for Afghan Refugees (Juan Amunategui Interview; JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 23 Nov 86)	98
•	Sudanese Prisoners Ask To Be Allowed To Return Home (KEYHAN, 17 Dec 86)	100
	Development, Expansion of Heavy Industries Detailed (KEYHAN, 9 Dec 86)	102
	Saipa Company To Produce Only Nissan Trucks for Export (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 19 Nov 86)	106

PAKISTAN

	Pakistan Said Not Prepared for Indian Attack (Nurkhan; JANG, 31 Dec 86)	108
	Zia Announcement on Future Retirement Discussed (Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 12 Dec 86)	112
	Jamaat-e-Islami Leader on Sino Separation, Other Issues (Jamaat-e-Islami Interview; NAWA-I-WAQT, 12 Dec 86)	114
	Proposal To Change Provincial Boundaries Discussed (Aziz Bhatti; NAWA-I-WAQT, 6 Dec 86)	120
/7310		

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JPRS-NEA-87-029 13 MARCH 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

REGION.	AL AFFAIRS					
	Islamic Summit Conference (AL-ITTIHAD, 21 Ja	Proposal on Lan 87)	aw	••••		1
	Arab Development Institut (Mustafa Imam; AL-	tions Plan Futu -ITTIHAD, 16 Ja	re Proje n 87)	ects	• • • • • • • •	6
	Seminar Discusses Arab Lo (AL-ITTIHAD, 13 Ja				• • • • • • •	8
	Briefs Curricula Standard Arab Maritime Flee					10 10
		ARAB AFRICA				
EGYPT						
	U.S. Proposals on Milita (ROSE AL-YUSUF, 1			• • • • • •	•••••	11
	Former Industry Minister ('Aziz Sidqi Inte				87)	14
	President of Money Marke (Hasan Fajj-al-Nu				9 Jan 87) 22

SUDAN

	Sadiq al-Mahdi Sees Closer Ties, Pact With Iran (Sadiq al-Mahdi Interview; KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, 20 Dec 86)	26
	Minister of Industry Comments on Relations With Egypt (Mubarak al-Mahdi Interview; AL-MAJALLAH, 21-27 Jan 87)	33
	Former NASC Member Lam Akol Interviewed (HERITAGE, 26 Jan 87)	36
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Development Plans for Kurdish Provinces (THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER, 22 Jan 87)	42
	Agricultural Development Plans in Al-Anbar Province (Y. P. Youkhanna; THE BAGDHAD OBSERVER, 28 Jan 87)	43
	Transportation, Communication Statistics for 1986 (Rushdi Sabbar; THE BAGDHAD OBSERVER, 28 Jan 87)	45
JÖRDAN		
	Al-Masri on ICO Summit, PLO, Other Issues (Tahir al-Masri Interview; AL-ANBA', 23 Jan 87)	46
	Dudin Discusses West Bank Development Program (Amman Domestic Service, 25 Jan 87)	48
	Briefs Senate Member Dies Ambassadors Present Credentials New Polish Envoy	50 50 50
KUWAIT	garan da karangan da karan Mangan da karangan da kara	
	Minister Sees Summit on Chance To Solve Arab, Islamic Problems ('Abd-al-Rahman Khalid al-Ghanim Interview; AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, 23 Jan 87)	51
LEBANO	N	
	Iraq Supplying Arms to Phalange, 'Arafat Followers (KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, 17 Jan 87)	58

	Shaykh	Shams-al-Din Interviewed	
		(KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, 10 Jan 87)	59
SYRIA			
	A1-Shay	ykh Hilal Village Problems Described (Ahmad al-Ibrahim; TISHRIN, 6 Jan 87)	64
**			
	Coopera	ative Agriculture in Dar'a Governorate Discussed (Husayn Qasim; TISHRIN, 6 Jan 87)	66
	Affores	station Activity in Idlib Governorate Examined (Ibrahim 'Abd-al'Aziz; TISHRIN, 6 Jan 87)	70
		(IDIAMIM ADU AI AZIZ, IIDIMIN, O DAM O//	, 0
	Briefs	Damascus Businesses Closed	73
		Tobacco Smugglers Arrested	73
		Smuggled Tobacco, Wood Confiscated	73
YEMEN	ARAB REI		
	Grain /	Authority Merged With Foreign Trade Authority	
		(AL-JUMHURIYAH, 8 Jan 87)	74
	Disser	tation Discusses Economy Development Funding (Ahmad al-Jabali; AL-ITTIHAD, 13 Jan 87)	75
	Mur Pro	oject Expected To Boost Economy ('Abdu Salam al-Sharjabi; AL-JUMHURIYAH, 7 Jan 87)	79
		and the second of the second o	
•			
		SOUTH ASIA	
BANGLA	DESH	and the state of the	
. N.	Papers	Report on Ershad's Visit to Indonesia (THE NEW NATION, 14 Jan 87; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER,	·
54 J		15 Jan 87)	83
		Banquet Speech Summarized	83
		14 Jan Talks, Agreement	84
	· · · · · · · · ·	14 Jan Press Conference	85
		of professional and the contract of the contra	
	Soviet	Deputy Minister Visits To Discuss Energy Aid	
		(THE NEW NATION, 21 Jan 87; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 21 Jan 87)	86
		Talks With Energy Minister	86
		Soviet-Bangladesh Cooperation, by M. M. Bogdanchikov	87

	(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 18 Jan 87)	89
	ndian Transit Vessels Fail To Pay Fees (Monowar Hossain; THE NEW NATION, 20 Jan 87)	90
	eport on Joint Commission Meeting With Saudis (THE NEW NATION, 19 Jan 87)	91
	oint Commission With Belgium Meets in Dhaka (THE NEW NATION, 14 Jan 87)	92
	nanti Bahini Reported Foiling Repatriation Efforts (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 17 Jan 87)	93
	rshad Approves Jatiya Council Membership (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 23 Jan 87)	94
	aper Interviews Awami League President Hasina (Munshi Haroon; THE NEW NATION, 17 Jan 87)	95
	riefs	
	New Hungarian Envoy	96
	JCD Leader Hospitalized	96
	Hindu Denied Visa	96
	Ambassador to ROK	96
	Communist Leader Dies	97
	New Islamic Organization	97
	British Grant	97
	Communist Leader II1	97
	Denial on Waqf	97
	Ambassador to Denmark	98
	Indonesian Envoy's Credentials	98
	Qatar Manpower Pact	98
	Ershad Hospital Stay	98
	Border Killing	98
INDIA		
	unjab Chief Minister Reacts to Gandhi Remarks (THE HINDU, 22 Jan 87)	99
	ndia, FRG To Cooperate in New Satellite Launching (THE HINDU, 22 Jan 87)	101
	aper Comments on Defense Minister Appointment (PATRIOT, 25 Jan 87)	102
	tatisticians Predict 3.9 Percent Annual Growth Rate (THE TELEGRAPH, 22 Jan 87)	10:

	Brieis	
	Envoy to Cameroon	104
	Dalai Lama Press Conference	104
	Kerala Election Date	104
	British Radars Purchased	104
	AISSF Leader Expelled	105
	Resignation From Janata	105
	OPEC Aid	105
	Hindu Front	106
IRAN		
	Increase in Refugee Population Reported	
	(KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 16 Dec 86)	107
	Government Taking 'Drastic' Steps To Improve Health Care (Erik Fosse, Trond Linstad; ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD	
•	REVIEW, No 65, Jan 87)	108
PAKIST	CAN	
	Commentary Supports Denial of Facilities to U.S. Planes, Ships (Editorial; DAWN, 17 Jan 87)	110
	Afghan Talks Viewed	
	(Editorial; DAWN, 29 Jan 87)	112
	Government, Conference on Problem Finding Ridiculed	
	(AMN, 28 Dec 86)	114
	Paper Analyzes State of National Economy	
	(Editorial; THE MUSLIM, 1 Feb 87)	116
	Sohrab Goth Cleanup Allegedly Motivated by Greed	110
	(Editorial; AMN, 4 Jan 87)	118

/12223

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JPRS-NEA-87-030 16 MARCH 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

REGIONAL AI	FFAIRS	
Syri	ian Defense Minister Interviewed by DER SPIEGEL (Mustafa Talas Interview; RESALAT, 16 Nov 86)	1
' Cor	nfidential Letter' Reveals Execution of 254 in A1-'Amarah (KEYHAN, 17 Dec 86)	.4
ARMENIAN AI	FFAIRS	
Armo	enian Assistance to War Fronts Observed in Ceremony (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 6 Dec 86)	25
	ARAB AFRICA	
EGYPT		
Sov	iets Seek U.S. Exclusion From Aswan Work (AL-SHA'B, 20 Jan 87)	27
AL-	AHRAM on Hostages, U.S. Military Option (MENA, 6 Feb 87)	28
AL-	AKHBAR Welcomes Reagan View on Mideast Conference (MENA, 19 Feb 87)	29
AL-	AKHBAR: Shamir Alone in Opposing Peace Conference (MENA, 23 Feb 87)	30
Edi	torial Views Shamir-Peres 'Musical Chairs' (MENA, 21 Feb 87)	31

Islamic Leader on Islamic Groups, Camp David (Muhammad al-Muraghi Interview; AL-ANBA', 23 Feb 87)	32
Islamic Guidance Society Leader Interviewed (Hafiz Salamah Interview; AL-ANBA', 21 Feb 87)	35
Al-Baz Discusses Summit, Arab Defense Pact (Usamah al-Baz Interview; AL-BAYAN, 1 Feb 87)	37
Government Reportedly Reaches Agreement With IMF (AL-WAFD, 22 Jan 87)	40
'Abd-al-Majid Denies Change in Policies (KUNA, 31 Jan 87)	41
AL-AHALI Views Motives of Mubarak's Referendum Decision (Editorial; AL-AHALI, 11 Feb 87)	42
AL-AKHBAR Calls for 'Clean, Honorable' Elections (Sa'id Sumbul; AL-AKHBAR, 15 Feb 87)	44
AL-AHALI Criticizes 'Forgery' in Elections (Editorial; AL-AHALI, 18 Feb 87)	46
Paper Regrets Election 'Missed Opportunity' (Wahid Ra'fat; AL-WAFD, 12 Feb 87)	48
AL-SHA'B Analyzes Abu-Ghazalah Speech on Forces' Role (Mahjub 'Umar; AL-SHA'B, 27 Jan 87)	50
Al-Mahdi Confers With Abu-Ghazalah, 'Abd al-Majid (MENA, 21 Feb 87)	53
Mubarak Addresses Symposium on Gulf War (MENA, 12 Feb 87)	54
Foreign Ministry Source Urges End to Lebanon Camp War (Cairo Domestic Service, 8 Feb 87)	58
AL-AKHBAR Condemns 'Bitter Syrian Attack' (MENA, 2 Feb 87)	59
Egyptian Editor Raps Syrian Stand on Egypt (Ibrahim Sa'dah; AKHBAR AL-YAWM, 31 Jan 87)	60
Cairo Television Comments on Syrian Entry Into Beirut (Cairo Television Service, 23 Feb 87)	64
Sidqi Announces New Food Inspection Procedure (MENA, 16 Feb 87)	65
the second of the control of the second of t	

	Briefs Socialist Labor Leader on Party Alliances	67
	Iranian Threat to Basra	67 68
	Symposium Calls for End to Gulf War Crude Petroleum Prices Down	68
	Armed Forces' Training	68
	Amal 'Mass Terrorism' Condemned	68
	Information, Cultural Pact With Bahrain	69
	Readmission to Arab Doctors Union	69
	Nine Detained in Saudi Arabia Return	69 69
	Exports Exempted From Yugoslav Tariffs 'Arafat Message on Camps Received	69
SUDAN	en en en la companya de la companya La companya de la co	
DODAN		' ;
. "	Debate, Comment on Numayri Extradition Reported (AL-MAYDAN, 28 Jan 87)	70
	Sudanese Party Delegation in Cairo	70
	Egyptian Attitude Criticized, Editorial	71
	Al-Mahdi Economic Advisor Interviewed	
	(Al-Tijani al-Tayyib Interview; AL-MAJALLAH, 28 Jan-	73
٠.	2 Feb 87)	13
	Drought in Kordofan Reported	*
	('Abd-al-Qadir Hafiz; AL-DUSTUR, 26 Jan 87)	79
	and the control of th	
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ	en de la composition de la composition La composition de la	
	Paper Raps Syrian, Pakistani Stand on ICO Resolution	84
	(INA, 25 Jan 87)	04
	Briefs	
	Outgoing Vatican Ambassador	85
JORDAN		
	1 Chi farance	
	AL-RA'Y Doubts U.S. Stand on International Conference (Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 23 Feb 87)	86
5		•
	Editorial Urges Efforts to 'Unmask' Israeli Stand	87
	(SAWT AL-SHA'B, 21 Feb 87)	07
	SAWT AL-SHA'B Urges European Peace Initiative	
	(Editorial; SAWT AL-SHA'B, 22 Feb 87)	89
:		
	AL-DUSTUR Greets EC Support for Peace Conference	0.1
	(Editorial; AL-DUSTUR, 24 Feb 87)	91

•	Amman Television Carries 6 February West Bank Program (Amman Television Service, 6 Feb 86)	93
	AL-RA'Y Hits Israeli 'Piracy' in Seizure of Cargo Boat (Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 8 Feb 87)	95
	Jordan's Foreign Minister Views ICO Meetings in Kuwait (Tahir al-Masri Interview; Amman Television Service, 25 Jan 87)	96
	Briefs Cabinet Restricts Government Expenditures Senator Appointed	98 98
PALEST	INIAN AFFAIRS ,	
	Cairo Paper Interviews Yasir 'Arafat (Hasanayn Kurum; AL-WAFD, 15 Jan 87)	99
•	'Arafat Interviewed by AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM (Yasir 'Arafat Interview; AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, 25 Jan 87)	102
	PLO Radio Carries FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH Article (Baghdad Voice of the PLO, 27 Jan 87)	108
SYRIA		
	Syrian Press on U.S. Military Buildup, European Stand (Damascus Domestic Service, 9 Feb 87)	112
	AL-BA'TH Views Current U.S. Maneuvers in Region (Damascus Domestic Service, 23 Jan 87)	114
	ICO Should Distinguish Between Enemy, Friend (Damascus Domestic Service, 27 Jan 87)	115
	Briefs Contracts Signed With USSR Outgoing, Incoming Envoys	117 117
	SOUTH ASIA	
IRAN		
	Comprehensive Plan To Link East, South to Nationwide Rail (Afshar Interview; RESALAT, 13 Nov 86)	118
	Telephone Center Inaugurated (RESALAT, 23 Nov 86)	119
	Briefs Internationalization of Airports	120
/9987	- d - 134	

JPRS-NEA-87-031 17 MARCH 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

REGION	AL AFFAIRS	
	New Iran-Sudan Agreement Forges Closer Islamic Ties (Mustafa Tajzadeh Interview; KAYHAN AL-¹ARABI, 17 Jan 87)	1
	ARAB AFRICA	
EGYPT	en de la composition de la composition La composition de la	
	Hizballah Magazine Publishes Interview With Jihad Leader ('Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman Interview; AL-'AHD, 17 Jan 87)	5
SUDAN		
	Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Interview (al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Interview; AL-MAYDAN, various dates) .	12
,	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Progress of Education in Kurdish Areas Reviewed (Najdah 'Abd-al-Majid; AL-THAWRAH, 14 Jan 87)	27
	Iranian Paper Hears Muslim Dissident's Views (Qusayy 'Abd-al-'Aziz Interview; KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, 10 Jan 87)	30

ISRAEL

	Jordan Airlines May Open Office in Jerusalem, West Bank (Shafi Gabay; MA'ARIV, 16 Dec 86)	34
	Purchase of Crude Oil From Egypt ('Oded Shorer; MA'ARIV, 21 Dec 86)	35
	Kfir Aircraft for Sale to Honduras (BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR, No 54, Nov 86)	36
	Beni Begin Image Seen 'Softened', Focused on Strategic Data (Beni Begin Interview; YEDI'OT AHARONOT, 15 Dec 86)	38
	Briefs Deserters Caught by Military Police	40
	SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHAN	IISTAN	
	Major Guerrilla Leader Discounts American Support (Borhanoddin Rabbani Interview; KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, 3 Jan 87)	41
	Wounded Combatant Describes Recent Nangarhar Fighting (AL-MUJTAMA', 13 Jan 87)	46
INDIA		
	Weinberger Comments on Cooperation With India Noted (J. N. Parimoo; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 8 Jan 87)	49
	Papers Report on Relations With EEC (Various sources, various dates)	50
	Commerce Minister's Brussels Speech Assurance of Help Cheysson Press Conference	50 51 51
	Amnesty Urges Government To Permit Refugees To Stay (PATRIOT, 21 Jan 87)	52
	Independent Human Rights Panel Established (THE HINDU, 12 Jan 87)	53
	New Ground Rules Sought in PRC Border Talks (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 11 Jan 87)	54
	CPI-M Attitude Toward PRC Communists Examined (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 9 Jan 87)	55

Writer	Examines Objectives of PRC Communists' Visit (THE STATESMAN, 16 Jan 87)	56
Vanjpay	yee Demands White Paper on Sino-Indian Border (THE HINDU, 23 Jan 87)	58
Special	l Body Planned To Boost Trade With Soviets (PATRIOT, 13 Jan 87)	59
Reports	s on External Affairs Minister's Hanoi Visit (Various sources, various dates)	60
	11 Jan Activities Talks With Pham Van Dong Economic Accords Signed Countering PRC Offensive, Editorial	60 60 61 61
Karachi	Asked To State Opposition to Secessionists (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 7 Jan 87)	63
More Pa	ekistan Agents Arrested in Jammu (PATRIOT, 11 Jan 87)	64
Reporta	age on Youth Congress Against Apartheid (PATRIOT, various dates)	65
	Gandhi Opens Meeting Program, Declaration Released	65 67
Gandhi	Speaks at 74th Scientific Conference (L. K. Sharma; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 8 Jan 87)	69
Reporta	age on Gandhi's Visit to West Bengal (Various sources, 11 Jan 87)	71
	Report on 10 Jan Calcutta Speech University Question, Answer Session	71 73
Panel I	Oiscusses Extremist Developments in Northeast (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 8 Jan 87)	7 5
Gheishi	ing Sees Gurkha State Formed by May (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 8 Jan 87)	77
Manipur	Leader Interviewed on Northeast Insurgency (Neerja Chowdhury; THE STATESMAN, 10 Jan 87)	78
Indira	Gandhi Trust Holds Delhi Conference (Various sources, various dates)	80
	Rajiv Gandhi Speech Report on 13 Jan Speeches	80 81
	- c - 137	
	on all and the second of the s	

President Returns Bill to Parliament for First Time (THE STATESMAN, 16 Jan 87)	84
Gandhi Seen Confused in Exercising Power (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 12 Jan 87)	86
Gandhi Seen Streamlining Administrative Procedures (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 13 Jan 87)	88
Paper Reports, Comments on Venkateswaran Resignation (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, various dates)	90
Gandhi's Remark Criticized Talk With Gandhi	90 91
Congress-I Dissidents Launch New Party (THE HINDU, 7 Jan 87)	93
CPI-M Leader Meets Press After Politburo Meeting (Various sources, 9 Jan 87)	95
Gurkha Problem, Other Matters More Details Given	95 96
CPI Statement Opposes BJP Stand on Government (PATRIOT, 11 Jan 87)	97
Press Told of CPI Central Secretariat Meeting (PATRIOT, 13 Jan 87)	98
Chief of Army Staff Interviewed on Army Day (Various sources, 15 Jan 87)	99
Modernization Program Noted Furter Details Given	99 100
Northern Command General Interviewed on Army Day (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 16 Jan 87)	101
Planning Commission Estimates GNP Growth Rate (THE TELEGRAPH, 12 Jan 87)	102
Base Year for Consumer Price Index Shifted to 1982 (THE TELEGRAPH, 9 Jan 87)	103
Wholesale Prices Said To Have Risen 5 Percent in '86 (PATRIOT, 15 Jan 87)	104
Estimates of 1986-87 Food Grain Production Given (PATRIOT, 12 Jan 87)	105
Briefs New IAF Plane	107

IRAN

Editorial Contemplates Strategy Behind L (KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, 13 Jan 87)		8
Briefs		
Flood Damages Reported	11:	1
PAKISTAN		· .
Ziaul Haq Interviewed on Foreign Relation (Mohammad Ziaul Haq Interview; AL		2
/9987		٠.

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JPRS-NEA-87-032 18 MARCH 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

Contents

ARAB AFRICA

_	_		_	_	
Tr/	~	v	п	п	г
		1	r		

Egypt's 'Clear, Open' Policy Seen Cause of Syrian 'Rancor' (Editorial; AL-AKHBAR, 3 Feb 87)	1
Envoy to Israel Notes Efforts Toward PLO, Jordan Unity (Various sources, 9 Feb 87)	3
DAVAR Report, by Yosi Leibowitz JERUSALEM POST Version	3 3
London Magazine Interviews Interior Minister (Zaki Bard Interview; AL-TADAMUN, 31 Jan-1 Feb 87)	4
KUNA Interviews Egypt's 'Abd-al-Majid in ICO (Salah Tayel; KUNA, 23 Jan 87)	6
Egyptian Minister on War Materiel Production (Jamal al-Sayyid Interview; AL-AHRAM, 3 Feb 87)	8
Two of Five Early Warning E2C Planes Arrive (MENA, 2 Feb 87)	11
British Official Discusses Visit, Departs (MENA, 5 Feb 87)	12
Ministry Source on Contaminated Milk Reports (Cairo Domestic Service, 4 Feb 87)	13
Briefs Italian Loan No Contaminated Milk	14 14

	Mubarak-Amir Meet Syrian Group Lauds Mubarak New Oil Deposits	14 14 14
	Mew OII Deposits	
MOROCCO		
	Briefs Morocco-UAE Accords	15
SUDAN		
	Al-Mahdi, Sudan Minister Reportedly Involved in Dispute (SUNA, 5 Feb 87)	16
	SPLA Zonal Commander in Southern Kordofan Interviewed (HERITAGE, 9 Feb 87)	17
WESTER1	N SAHARA	
	Algerian Journalist Reports on Guerrillas (NOTICIAS, 20 Oct 86)	20
	Moroccan 'Wall' Under Attack 'Permanent Resistance' Fighting Described	20 22 25
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
JORDAN		
	More 'Open' U.SIsrael-Iran Alliances Seen (Editorial; SAWT AL-SHA'B, 17 Feb 87)	27
	SAWT AL-SHA'B Praises Husayn's Syria Visit, Talks (Editorial; SAWT AL-SHA'B, 12 Feb 87)	28
	West Bank Uprising Unaffected by Shamir U.S. Trip (Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 18 Feb 87)	30
	Editorial Urges More Support for West Bank Citizens (AL-DUSTUR, 17 Feb 87)	31
	AL-RA'Y Reiterates Stand on Direct Talks (Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 9 Feb 87)	32
	Daily Alludes to U.S. Backing for Iran (AL-DUSTUR, 8 Feb 87)	34
	Restrictions Issued on Employing Foreigners (IORDAN TIMES, 5-6 Feb 87)	36

	New Road Projects for 1987 Announced (JORDAN TIMES, 5-6 Feb 87)	37
	Briefs Cabinet Recalls Ambassadors	38
	W. Bank TV Correspondent	38
	Islamic Bank Loan	38
	Joint Jordanian-Saudi Company	39
LEBANC	N	
	Interview With Sulayman Franjiyah (Sulayman Franjiyah Interview; AL-HAWADITH, 13 Feb 87) .	40
	Briefs	
	Fadlallah on ICO, U.S.	44
SYRIA		
	Damascus Urges 'More Efforts' To End Fighting in Lebanon	
	(Damascus Domestic Service, 11 Feb 87)	45
	AL-BA'TH Views Reagan-Shamir Washington Talks (Damascus Domestic Service, 20 Feb 87)	47
	Damascus Radio Views Shamir U.S. Visit, U.SIsrael Alliance (Damascus Domestic Service, 16 Feb 87)	48
	U.SIsraeli Alliance 'Directed Against Arabs' (Damascus Domestic Service, 15 Feb 87)	50
	Damascus Radio Urges To Counter U.S. 'Expansion' (Damascus Domestic Service, 12 Feb 87)	52
	AL-THAWRAH Cited on 'Arafat Clique 'Conspiracy' in Lebanon (Damascus Domestic Service, 13 Feb 87)	54
	Islamic Grouping Leader Sa'id Hawa Interviewed (Sa'id Hawa Interview; AL-MUSAWWAR, 30 Jan 87)	55
	Camp David Criticism Not an Attack on Egypt (Damascus Domestic Service, 7 Feb 87)	62
	Abrogation of Camp David Not Impossible (Damascus Domestic Service, 9 Feb 87)	64
	Commentary: U.S. 'Will of Aggression' Will Not Succeed (Damascus Domestic Service, 8 Feb 87)	66
	Interior Minister Interviewed on Relations With Turkey (Muhammad Chabbagh Interview: CUMHURIYET 16 Jan 87)	68

(overnment Cracks Down on Foreign Currency Smuggling (Various sources, various dates)	72
		72
	Currency Smugglers Sentenced	72 72
	Currency Dealers Sentenced	73
	Convictions to cultication and concerns	73
	Court Sessions Continue	74
	Sentencing of Dealers Continues	74
	Border Patrols Search for Currency Smugglers	74
PEOPLE'	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN	
	ecretary General's Interview With Egyptian Magazine Reprinted ('Ali Salim al-Bid Interview; AL-THAWRI, 24 Jan 87)	75
,	ew Trade Agreement Signed With Malta	
	(14 UKTUBAR, 22 Jan 87)	81
	conomic Priorities Rely Heavily on Public Sector	
	(Nabil Khuri; AL-MUSTAQBAL, 24 Jan 87)	83
	arious Capital Investments in Hadramawt Reviewed	0.5
	(14 UKTUBAR, 2 Jan 87)	85
	Briefs	86
	Party Training Course	86
	Oil Agreement With Elf	87
	Protocols With Czechoslovakia	87
	Czech Loan	88
	Kuwait Crude Processing Agreement Joint Committee With Ethiopia	88
YEMEN A	RAB REPUBLIC	
	State, Industrial Bank Encourages Domestic Industries ('Abbas al-Qurishi Interview; AL-MAJALLAH, 21-27 Jan 87) .	89
	SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHANI	STAN	
	Government Woos Private Businessmen	
	(Patrick Worsnip; THE NATION, 4 Feb 87)	92
INDIA		
	Vonkatocuaran in New York	
	Bombay Television Interviews Venkateswaran in New York (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 15 Jan 87)	93
	Government Maintains U.S. Mercenaries Aiding Sri Lankan Forces	
	(THE HINDU, 14 Jan 87)	95

Analyst Notes U.S. Concern Over Pakistan Developments (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 17 Jan 87)	96
Commentator Views Situation on PRC, Pakistan Borders (THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, 28 Jan 87)	97
Soviet Visitor Discusses Science Cooperation Plans (PATRIOT, 14 Jan 87)	101
Analyst Writes on Danish Prime Minister's Visit (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 14 Jan 87)	102
Finance Minister Tries To Hold Down Budget Deficit (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 18 Jan 87)	103
Space Research Head Discusses Satellite Plans (THE HINDU, 14 Jan 87)	104
Many Top Central Government Officials To Retire (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 20 Jan 87)	105
PAKISTAN	
Political Alliance Outside MRD Said to 'Worry' PPP, JI (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 6 Feb 87)	106
Pakistan-Belgium Trade Commission Planned (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 3 Feb 87)	107
Proposals for Joint Ventures With Iran, Turkey Invited (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 3 Feb 87)	108
Anti-Corruption Committee's Powers Increased (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 6 Feb 87)	109
Assembly Motion on Wali Khan Dismissed (THE MUSLIM, 4 Feb 87)	111
Education Minister Talks About Reforms, Plans (THE MUSLIM, 13 Feb 87)	113
Assembly Forms Committee To Examine Existing Laws (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 3 Feb 87)	115
Jatoi Comments on Shariat Bill, Foresees 'Civil Wars' (THE MUSLIM, 13 Feb 87)	116
Commentary Views Debate on Shariat Bills (Linesman; VIEWPOINT, 29 Jan 87)	117
Increase in Sugar Production Reported	119

	Minister Talks About Sind Arms Licenses (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 6 Feb 87)	120
	Report on Taxation Discusses Tax Evasion, Black Money (Aslam Sheikh; THE MUSLIM, 13 Feb 87)	121
	Kalabagh Design Said Being Reviewed (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 3 Feb 87)	123
	Chashma Canal Costs, Losses Questioned (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 3 Feb 87)	124
	Educated Tribals Said Against Tirah Road (Tariq Butt; THE MUSLIM, 4 Feb 87)	125
	Private Sector Said Likely To Build Highway (Tariq Butt; THE MUSLIM, 13 Feb 87)	126
	Commentary Views Mood, Culture in Karachi (Sultan Ahmed; THE MUSLIM, 13 Feb 87)	127
	Commentary Discusses Smuggling, Other Topics (Masud Ahmad; THE MUSLIM, 13 Feb 87)	129
	Minister Defends Allocation of Funds to Legislators (THE MUSLIM, 4 Feb 87)	131
/7310		

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

ALGERI		
	Post-Revolution Generation Cause for Concern (Frederic Fritscher; LE MONDE, 24 Jan 87)	1
	<pre>Information Sector Alive in Spite of No Confidence in Official Press (Frederic Fritscher; LE MONDE, 17 Jan 87)</pre>	3
EGYPT		
	Muslim Leader Addresses 'Open Letter' to Mubarak (Mahid Abu-al-Nasr; AL-SHA'B, 17 Feb 87)	6
	Mahmud 'Awad Criticizes Salah Abu-Isma'il (Mahmud 'Awad; UKTUBAR, 11 Jan 87)	15
	Legal Aspects of February Referendum Discussed (AL-AHRAM, 10 Feb 87)	25
	Constitutional Law Experts Islamic Law Scholars	25 30
	Prime Minister Views Mubarak Meeting on Economy (MENA, 15 Feb 87)	32
	Government Handling of Alexandria Sewage Project Criticized ('Isam al-Din Rif'at, Samir Sharbash; AL-SHA'B, 21 Oct 86)	34
	Briefs Soviet Delegation	39 39
	Viciting Sudanese PM	

	Residency Law, Agreements Ratified World Bank Electricity Loan Radioactive Food Rejected	39 40 40 40
TUNISIA		
e A	Dissident Leader Condemns Shutdown of Socialist Democrat Paper (AL-RA'Y, 6 Feb 87)	41
	UGTT Leader on Ousted Members, Relations With Unions Abroad (Abdelaziz Bouraoui; ΛL-SABAH, 24 Jan 87)	45
	Problems of Domestic Oil Depletion Reviewed (AL-TADAMUN, 31 Jan 87) ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	51
IRAQ	and the control of the second	
	Saddam Husayn Decorates Defense Minister (AL-THAWRAH, 2 Feb 87)	53
	Correspondents Interviewed on War Coverage (AL-TADAMUN, 7 Feb 87)	61
ISRAEL		r _y
ŧ	Iranian Army Deserter Asks for Asyslum (Shmu'el Tagar; DAVAR, 8 Feb 87)	65
	Shamir To Propose New West Bank Settlements (Ilan Shehori, et al; HA'ARETZ 12 Feb 87)	66
	Shamir Favors Settlement in All Eretz Yisra'el (Jerusalem Domestic Service, 23 Jan 87)	67
r d	USSR Official Confirms Changes in Emigration (YEDI'OT AHARONOT, 4 Feb 87)	68
	Jordanian TV 'Correspondent' Interviewed (Jerusalem Domestic Service, various dates)	69
	Credentials Questioned Check Ordered on Jordan TV Interviews	69 71
	Israel-Hungary Aviation Line Talks Under Way (Ingo Doutschkron: MA'ARIV 9 Feb 87)	72

	Briefs	٠.
	General Or To Resign	73
	Hounduran Denies Israeli Activity	73
	Israel, Poland Negotiate Cooperation	73
	India Boycotts Israel	73
	EEC Lifts Boycott	74
	Plane Sale to China	74
	New State Comptroller	74
i, r	Windmill Energy Developments	74
LEBANOI	N .	
	Al-'Arifi Describes Situation Inside al-Rashidiyah Camp	
	(Shaykh Muhammad al-'Arifi Interview; AL-MAJALLAN,	
	4-10 Feb 87)	75
UNITED	ARAB EMIRATES	
	Campaigns Organized To Apprehend Violators of Labor Law	00
	'Abd-al'Munsif Shakar; AL-ITTIHAD, 22 Jan 87)	. 80
	The Detector Cormony Discussed	
	Economic Cooperation With Britain, Germany Discussed (Suhayl al-'Abdul; AL-ITTIHAD, 21 Jan 87)	81
	(Sunayl al- Abdul; AL-IIIIAD, 21 ban 67)	erî e.
	Rriofe The Committee of	
	Briefs Economic Joint Venture With Sudan Table 2018 2018 2018	83
	Economic Source Actuals when pagent	
	and the second of the second o	
: '}	SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHAN	TSTAN	44
in one		
	Stingers Providing Moral Boost to Mujahidin	•
•,	(Almerigo Grilz; LIBERATION, 24-25 Jan 87)	84
INDIA	and the state of t	
Tin -	 In a way for the second of the	
	Analyst Writes on Indo-Pakistan Border Tension	06
	(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, various dates)	86
		86
, ;	Pakistan Troops Mass	87
	Indian Response Told	88
•	Pakistan Offer Accepted	00
	- A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A Monol Porloy	*.
	Tiwari Meets With Counterparts at Nepal Parley	90
	(THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, 18 Jan 87)	7 7
	Tiwari's Talks With Nepali Foreign Minister Reported	
. •	(THE TELEGRAPH, 19 Jan 87)	91
	(THE TELEGRAPH, 19 San 67)	
	Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Delhi Press	
	(DATRIOT 17 Jan 87)	92

	(Various sources, 13 Jan 87)	93
	Aid for Tehri Dam More Details Given	93 93
IRAN	National Income Rise Estimated at 5.1 Percent (PATRIOT, 17 Jan 87)	95
	Commerce Minister Reports to Majlis on Company Output (KEYHAN, 31 Dec 86)	97
	Sale of Arms by France to Clerical Regime Reported	117
	(London KEYHAN, 22 Jan 87)	119
/0087		

JPRS-NEA-87-034 20 MARCH 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

REGIONA	AL AFFAIRS	
	Khashoqji Discusses Role in Iran Weapons Deal ('Adnan Khashoqji Interview; AL-ITTIHAD, 15, 22 Jan 87)	1
	ARAB AFRICA	
EGYPT		
	President of Shura Council Interviewed ('Ali Lutfi Interview; AL-WATAN, 4 Feb 87)	29
	Shaykh Al-Azhar Interviewed (Hasan 'Allam; AKHIR SA'AH, 28 Jan 87)	36
	Commentary on Al-Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il (Hamid Sulayman; AKHIR SA'AH, 21 Jan 87)	40
TUNISI	A	
:	Trade-Union Personalities Arrested (AL-WATAN, 31 Jan 87)	42
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
JORDAN	in the state of the	
	Official Discusses Plans for West Bank (Ahmad Qatanani Interview; Amman Television Service, 13 Feb 87)	43

•	Political Writers Defend Syrian Entry, Deployment in Beirut (SAWT AL-SHA'B, 23 Feb 87; AL-RA'Y, 22 Feb 87)	51
	SAWT AL-SHA'B Editorial AL-RA'Y Article	51 52
	Briefs Ambassador to Colombia	54
KUWAIT	en e	
	Oil Exploration Operations Affected by Price Drop ('Abd-al-Karim Kazim; AL-SIYASAH, 30 Dec 86)	55
	Briefs	58
	Deficit Figures Revealed	,
LEBANO		
	Hizballah Organizes Broad Demonstration in Support of Iran (AL-'AHD, 17 Jan 87)	59
PALEST	INIAN AFFAIRS	
	Conditions in Al-Jalil Refugee Camp (FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH, 22 Nov 86)	72
SAUDI	ARABIA	
	King Fahd Inaugurates Eastern Province Projects (AL-TADAMUN, 31 Jan-6 Feb 87)	78
	Briefs Nazir Visits USSR Nazir's USSR Visit Deemed Successful	80 80
SYRIA		
	Al-Ahmar Speech to Lebanese Communists ('Abdallah al-Ahmar; AL-BA'TH, 5 Feb 87)	81
	SOUTH ASIA	
INDIA		
	Center To Promote Trade With Soviet Union Opens (THE HINDU, 28 Jan 87)	87
	Analyst on Efforts Toward Sri Lanka Settlement (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 28 Jan, 8 Feb 87)	88

Meeting With Sri Lanka Envoy Three-Joint Proposition	88 89
Papers Report Outcome of Africa Fund Meeting (THE STATESMAN, 26 Jan 87; THE HINDU, 2 Feb 87)	90
Appeal Issued Gandhi Letter, Other Plans	90
Papers Report on Visit of Peruvian President (THE STATESMAN, 26 Jan 87; THE HINDU, 28 Jan 87)	92
Singh 25 January Banquet Speech Garcia Press Conference	92 92
Analyst on Malaysian Prime Minister's Visit (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 29, 31 Jan 87)	94
Expectations Told 30 January Talks	94 95
Paper Reports Gandhi Speech in Lucknow (THE TELEGRAPH, 1 Feb 87)	96
Defense Spending Plan for 1987-88 Discussed (Sreedhar; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 29 Jan 87)	97
Armaments Exhibited in Republic Day Parade (THE HINDU, 27 Jan 87)	99
Analyst on Qualifications of New Defense Minister (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 26 Jan 87)	101
Reasons for Shelving of AICC Session Given (Subhash Kirpekar; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 29 Jan 87)	102
High Commission in Dhaka Repudiates Reports on Chakmas (Zagul A. Chowdhury; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 29 Jan 87)	104
Papers Report Developments in Gurkha Situation (THE STATESMAN, 30 Jan, 4 Feb 87; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 1 Feb 87)	105
Leader's Letter to Gandhi Ghisingh-Buta Talks	105 105 107
Agitation Suspended Influx of Tribal Refugees Found Hard To Resist (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 2 Feb 87)	109

Par	pers Report First Meeting of Congress-S AICC (PATRIOT, 3 Feb 87; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 4 Feb 87)	110
	Sinha's Presidential Address Opposition Leaders Speak	110 110
Cal	Cutta Office Reviews History of Trade Unions (THE STATESMAN, 2 Feb 87)	112
Bri	iefs Soviet Automobile Offer	113
IRAN		
Sov	(IBIRAN IIIMB), S ICB OXY	114
Неа	avy Industry Minister on New Economic Conditions (KEYHAN, 31 Dec 86)	116
Age	ed, Infirm Iraqi Prisoners Freed (Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran Interview; KEYHAN, 4 Jan 87)	
Br	Non-Oil Exports Up	123
PAKISTAN		
	nejo Advice Regarding Subversive Elements Ridiculed (AMN, 21 Jan 87)	124
Re	port Takes In-Depth Look at Afghanistan Policy (VIEWPOINT, 5 Feb 87)	121
	Perception on Afghanistan Viewed Social Cost of Conflict, Policy Analyzed, by Zafar A. Chaudhry Economic Costs Analyzed, by Shahid Kardar Pampering of Fundamentalists Charged Anti-Refugee Sentiments Discussed Partics Leaders Consensus of Settlement	1 1
	Negotiated Peace: Geneva Talks Viewed	146
/7310	 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1	eritalist Parliati Parlia

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NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

ISLAMIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 8, 29 Nov and 5, 12, 19 Dec 86

[Article: "An Inquiry into the Intellectual Basis of the System of Government in Islam"]

[8 Nov 86 p 12]

[Text] With the victory of Islam and the establishment of its blessed state in Iran under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, the question of an Islamic system of government has been forcefully set forth recently. Although the question of an Islamic system of government is one that is important and delicate, from the point of view of Islamic doctrine, modern Muslims have not attached to it the same importance they used to attach to it in the past. In fact, after years of having no Islamic system of government, the idea of an Islamic government or a theory of one never crosses the minds of many Muslims.

Numerous and varied factors brought about that situation, but the two foremost factors are historical.

- 1. After the death of the great prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, the Islamic system of government became corrupt in practice. This blatant corruption started when the caliphate turned into a despotic and tyrannical system of government under the Umayyads and the ruling families that succeeded them. When this corruption, aided and abetted by other factors, grew and became worse, there was a state of general deterioration in the lives of Muslims on all political, intellectual and social levels.
- 2. The other factor is a historical factor that manifested itself in a plan by western colonialism to infiltrate and conquer the Islamic world. The aforementioned corruption helped bring about the success of this plan whose implementation began in a serious manner on a political plane early in the seventeenth century A.D. with the occupation of Indonesia in 1602. Then, significant progress was made during the second half of the 19th century, and the plan achieved its highest and greatest success at the end of World War I when the Islamic world in its entirety fell directly into the clutches of European colonialism.

The political and military campaigns were accompanied by a grave intellectual invasion whose most important tools were the Orientalist movement and the

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JPRS-NEA-87-036 25 MARCH 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

	Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka Suffer Unceasing Ethnic Conflict	
	(Kamal Samari; AL-DUSTUR, 22 Dec 86)	1
	ARAB AFRICA	
SUDAN		
	Southern Parties Release Statement on Administration of South (GUIDING STAR, 19 Feb 87)	4
	Paper Shortage Reported To Threaten Press (SUDAN TIMES, 22 Feb 87)	9
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Biography of New Minister of Light Industries (AL-THAWRAH, 22 Feb 87)	٥.
ISRAEL		.0
	New Measures Aim at Bolstering South Lebanese Army (David Rudge; THE JERUSALEM POST, 20 Feb 87)	

•	Poll Indicates Increased Support for Alignment (HA'ARETZ, 13 Feb 87)	13
	Briefs International Conference First Arab Diplomat Embassy in Pretoria To 'Lower Profile' Trade Gap Increases September-December 1986 Unemployment Industrial Agreement With Belgium Trade Accord With Paraguay Gaza Detention Facility New Mayor in Bi'r Zayt	14 14 14 15 15 16 16
KUWAIT		
	Islamic Summit Holds Hopes for Arab Summit (Wahib Muhammad Gharrab; AL-MAJALLAH, 4-10 Feb 87)	17
	Moscow Director of Kuwaiti News Agency on Regional Issues (MOSCOW NEWS, 1-8 Feb 87)	21
	Security Situation Described as 'Normal' (ARAB TIMES, 17 Feb 87)	23
	Measures Taken To Protect Aircraft (ARAB TIMES, 17 Feb 87)	25
	OECD 0il Consumption Statistics (AL-SIYASAH, 13 Jan 87)	26
	Oil Pipeline Project Under Consideration (AL-SIYASAH, 13 Jan 87)	27
	Briefs Military Officials Meet Oil Tanker Attacked by Iranians	29 29
LEBANO	n	
	Qabalan Discusses Hostages, Security Plan, Other Issues (MONDAY MORNING, 9-15 Feb 87)	30
SAUDI	ARABIA	
	Lebanese Newspaper Praises Aid to Lebanon (al-Majdhub; AL-JAZIRAH, 7 Feb 87)	34
	Contributions Solicited for Afghan Mujahidin (AL-JAZIRAH, 7 Feb 87)	36

	Briefs	
	Diteis	Food Sent to Sudan Food Sent to Lebanon Expatriate Laws Generalized
SYRIA		
	Decrees	s Issued on Local Government Representatives (TISHRIN, 19, 22 Jan 87)
		Members of Municipal Councils Provincial Councils Makeup
UNITED	ARAB EN	MIRATES
	Trade V	With USSR To Increase (Raman Kapoor; KAHLEEJ TIMES, 20 Feb 87)
	Briefs	
	Priers	ESL Development Plans Cooperation Agreement With Iraq Economic Accord With Turkey
		SOUTH ASIA
AFGHAN]	ISTAN	
	Briefs	Mujahidin Leader's Health
BANGLAI	DESH	The supplied of the supplied o
	Politi	cal Process Said in Stalemate (Pran Chopra; THE ISLAND, 4 Feb 87)
INDIA		
	India,	Canada Sign Extradition Treaty (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 7 Feb 87)
	Report	age on Talks To Defuse Pakistan Border Tension (THE HINDU, 28 Jan-5 Feb 87; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Feb 87)
٠.		Analyst Gives Background, by G. K. Reddy Differences Over Scope, by G. K. Reddy 1 February Secret Proceedings, by G. K. Reddy 2 February Proceedings, Talks Extended, by G. K. Reddy
812	,	3 February Activities, by G. K. Reddy
1 %	* * * *	

Limited Understanding Reached, by G. K. Reddy	62
Text of Minutes	63
Talks Called Not Wholly Successful, Editorial	64
Analyst Comments on Zia Visit to India	66
(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 6 Feb 87)	00
Press Reports Further on Indo-Pakistan Relations	
(PATRIOT, 6 Feb 87; THE HINDU, 31 Jan 87)	67
(PAIRIOI, O FED 07, THE HINDU, SI San 07)	0,
Gandhi Remarks to Newsmen	67
Gandhi Remarks Indian, Pakistani Forces Compared,	
by Manoj Joshi	68
BSF Unearths Three Pak Espionage Networks	
(PATRIOT, 5 Feb 87)	72
Dates for Talks With PRC To Be Decided	
(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 9 Feb 87)	73
Analyst on Gandhi Talks With Finnish President	
(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 4 Feb 87	74
Report on Meeting of Indo-Yugoslav Joint Committee	*
(PATRIOT, 4 Feb 87)	76
Paper Reports on Acquisition of Foreign Fighter Planes	
(THE TELEGRAPH, 5 Mar 87)	77
Soviet MIG Offer	77
French Mirage 2000's	77
Defense Institute Official on Weapons Needs	70
(PATRIOT, 5 Feb 87)	79
Commissioner Announces Dates of State Elections	0.0
(THE STATESMAN, 5 Feb 87)	80
Amended Goa Language Bill Passed	0.7
(THE STATESMAN, 5 Feb 87)	82
Briefs Parameter Potential	83
Envoy to Botswana	83
Congress-I-CPSU Ties	83
Rajasthan Oil Strike	83
Intelligence Bureau Chief DMK Leaders Sentenced	84
Chandra Shekhar III	84
Indo-Canadian Panel	84

IRAN

	Apology (by FRG TV Network Deemed Insulting, Insufficient (Tehran Domestic Service, 19 Feb 87)	85
	Khamene'	'i Visits Atomic Energy Organization Office (IRNA, 17 Feb 87)	87
	Former I	Rafsanjani Pilot Assassinated in Hamburg (Mesbahzadeh; London KEYHAN, 22 Jan 87)	88
	France I	Reportedly Refuffs Iraqi Arms Request (IRNA, 26 Feb 87)	92
	Briton	'Confesses' on Tehran TV (KEYHAN, 7 Feb 87)	94
٠	KEYHAN 1	Hits BBC Line on 'Experienced Spy' Cooper (Editorial, Seyyed Mohammad Ebrahimi; KEYHAN, 7 Feb 87)	99
	KEYHAN	on 'Spies' Aiding Iraqi Air Strikes (Tehran Domestic Service, 15 Feb 87)	101
	20 Arre	sted for Spying for Iraq in North (IRNA, 26 Feb 87)	103
	Tehran	Commentary on 'War of Cities' (Tehran Domestic Service, 15 Feb 87)	104
	Iraqi P	OW's Interviewed by Foreign Correspondents (Tehran Domestic Service, 18 Feb 87)	106
	Iraqi P	Pilot Captured in Gachsaran Interviewed (Tehran Domestic Service, 16 Feb 87)	108
	Capture	ed Iraqi Pilots Visit Bombed Sites in Qom (IRNA, 22 Feb 87)	110
	Comment	cary on 'Resolve' To Defeat Air Attacks (Tehran Domestic Service, 21 Feb 87)	111
	Briefs	Soviet Agent Alleged Khomeyni's Health Meeting With Nicaraguan Envoy Mojahedin-e Khalq Members Arrested	113 113 113 113
NEPAL			
	Briefs	Asian Development Bank Loan	114

PAKISTAN

Opposition Party Leader Criticizes U.S., Afghan Policy (DAWN, 5 Feb 87)	115
Bhutto Charges Zia 'Mishandled Relations' With India (Kuldip Nayyar; THE MUSLIM, 15 Feb 87)	117
Commentary Views Troop Withdrawal (Abbas Rashid; THE MUSLIM, 14 Feb 87)	118
Minister Talks About Wheat Subsidy, Other Matters (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 19 Feb 87)	120
Bureaucracy Said Embezzling 80 Billion Rupees Every Year (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 18 Feb 87)	121
Reportage on Police Firing in Baluchistan (Delhi Domestic Service, 22 Feb 87; Karachi Domestic Service, 24 Feb 87)	122
Six Killed Press Note Issued	122 122
Separatist Sentiment Fostered by Sindhi Hindus Denounced (Nawaz Khilji; HURMAT, 18-31 Dec 86)	123
Leader Voices Demand for Northern Areas Rights (Tariq Butt; THE MUSLIM, 14 Feb 87)	127
Muslim League Plans To Publish Manifesto (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 18 Feb 87)	128
Commentary Looks Back at 1985 Elections (Ali Sikander; THE MUSLIM, 15 Feb 87)	129
National Highway: Private Sector Role Welcomed (THE MUSLIM, 14 Feb 87)	131
WAPDA Said To Explore Water Near Quetta (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 18 Feb 87)	132
Asghar Khan Assails Shariat Bill (THE MUSLIM, 16 Feb 87)	133
Commentary Discusses Possible PPP-JI Cooperation (Khalid Akhtar; THE MUSLIM, 15 Feb 87)	134
MRD-JI Cooperation Said Not Possible (THE MUSLIM, 16 Feb 87)	136

P	Plans for 4th Karachi District Said Final (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 19 Feb 87)	137
F	Briefs Karachi Divided Into 14 Zones 1986 Oil Production IDA Approves Loan	138 138 138
SRI LANK	KA	
I	Editorial Hails Government's Devolution Plan (DAILY NEWS, 5 Feb 87)	139
7	Tamil Villagers Want 'Continued Military Presence' (LANKA PUWATH, 23 Feb 87)	141
\$	Security Forces Destroy LTTE Camp in Northwest (LANKA PUWATH, 24 Feb 87)	142
1	Military Achieves Objectives Against LTTE (AFP, 20 Feb 87)	143
•	Tamil Rebel Leader Asks No Support for LTTE (LANKA PUWATH, 22 Feb 87)	145
,	Three 'Gangs of Terrorists' Ally To Fight LTTE (LANKA PUWATH, 25 Feb 87)	146
	Tamil Radio Condemns DAILY NEWS, DECCAN HERALD (Voice of Tamil Eelam, 3 Feb 87)	147
	Tamil Radio on Current Situation, Future Role (Voice of Tamil Eelam, 10 Feb 87)	148
	Tamil Radio on Obstacle to Indian Mediation (Voice of Tamil Eelam, 15 Feb 87)	150
	Briefs	151
•	Refugees Return From India	151
	Camps To Rehabilitate Terrorists Economic Commission Session	151
		152
	Japanese Grant Aid	152
	Troops Attack Camps State of Emergency Extended	152
	Helicopters Strafe Village	15

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JPRS-NEA-87-037 26 MARCH 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

Contents

REGION	NAL AFFAIRS	
	Soviet Ambassador Discusses Afghanistan, Iran-Iraq War (Vladimir Sobchenko Interview; AL-'AMAL, 4 Feb 87)	1
ARMEN I	IAN AFFAIRS	
	ASALA Representatives in Beirut Discuss Dealings With France (Francoise Chipaux; LE MONDE, 18 Oct 86)	5
	ARAB AFRICA	
ALGERI	CA	
	Changes in Makeup of National Assembly Discussed (L. Chaabouni; REVOLUTION AFRICAINE, 13 Feb 87)	8
	Autonomy of Business Equated With 'Depetrolization' of Economy (F. Ziane; REVOLUTION AFRICAINE, 13 Feb 87)	10
EGYPT		
	People's Assembly, Shura Minister Radwan Interviewed ('Abd al-Hamid Radwan Interview; AL-TADAMUN, 17-23 Jan 87)	12
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
	Unidentified Jets Fired on in Zakhu (ANATOLIA, 2 Mar 87)	19
	Turks Deny Involvement Jets Identified as Iranian	19

	manders of Recent Battles 87) 20
Progress in Product (AL-THAWRAH,	ion Sectors Noted 22 Jan 87)
New Electrical Netw (Layth Arzuq	ork in Baghdad i Interview; AL-THAWRAH, 22 Jan 87) 2
JORDAN	
	sses Jordan's Economic Situation (u'ashshir; AL-SAWARI, Jan 87)
LEBANON	
Interview With Elie (AL-QABAS, 1	Hubayqah O Feb 87) 32
OMAN	
Nation Attempting T (KHALEEJ TIM	o Balance Budget ES, 4 Feb 87)40
Master Plan To Pres (Bala Menon;	erve Natural Resources Unveiled TIMES OF OMAN, 12 Feb 87)4
SYRIA	
New Produce Developm (AL-QABAS, 1	ment Company Formed 0 Jan 87)
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBL	IC OF YEMEN
. Kuwait Attempts to (AL-ITTIHAD,	Mediate Inter-Yemeni Conflicts 17 Feb 87)48
YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC	
New Law Restructure (AL-THAWRAH,	s Ministry of Religious Endowments, Guidance 9 Feb 87) 5
	SOUTH ASIA
AFGHANISTAN	
Afghan Guerrillas D (KAYHAN AL-'	iscuss Aid Needs ARABI, 6 Dec 86)
Afghani Rebel Comma (AL-MUJTAMA'	nder Hekmatyar Interviewed , 20 Jan 87) 70

·	Afghani	Jihad Leader Comments on Islamic Summit ('Abd-Rabb-al-Rasul Sayyaf Interview; AL-MUJTAMA', 28 Jan 87)	75
DANIOT AT	DECH	•	
BANGLAI	DESH	¥3.7	
٠	Officia	als Score Indian Statement on Chakmas (THE NEW NATION, 29 Jan 87)	77
	Annive	rsary of Bangladesh-Soviet Relations Observed (Various sources, various dates)	78
		Message From USSR	78 78 79
	Dhaka,	USSR Sign Protocol on Energy Talks	80
	Banglad	desh-Yugoslav Commission Minutes Signed (THE NEW NATION, 27 Jan 87)	81
i.	Report	on Ershad Speech to Fifth Islamic Summit (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 29 Jan 87)	82
	Ershad	Speech to 25 January Opening of Parliament (THE NEW NATION, 26-30 Jan 87)	84
٠.	Testa 1	Barrage Trial Run Without Dhaka Agreement (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 29 Jan 87)	91
	Briefs		٠
		Danish Aid Agreement	92
IRAN			
	Imam o	f Qom Interviewed on Arab Affairs (Ayatollah Janatti Interview; KAYHAN AL-'ARABI, 13 Dec 86)	93
	New Ra	tion Coupons for Public Transit Announced (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 29 Nov 86)	98
		24 NOV 00)	LOC
ar ·	Rates	for Some Dental Services Announced (KEYHAN, 4 Dec 86)	L02
		an to Rafsanjani: You Have Shut Peoples' Mouths	105
	Leader	ship's Attitudes Toward Kurdish Guerrillas Surveyed ('Ali Nuri Zadeh; London AL-DUSTUR, 24 Nov 86)	107

n de la companya de la co

JPRS-NEA-87-038 30 MARCH 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

Contents

EGIONAL AFFAIRS	
UDA Assembly, Distribution of Moroccan Newspapers in Iraq (Sa'd al-Bazzaz Interview; L'OPINION, 18 Dec 86)	1
ARAB AFRICA	
GYPT	
Planning Minister Kamal al-Janzuri Interviewed (AL-SIYASAH, 30 Dec 86)	4
New Security Chief Describes Reforms in Organization ('Abd-al-Rahim Al-Nahhas Interview; ROSE AL-YUSUF, 16 Feb 87)	9
Red Sea Governor Discusses Tourist Outlook (Yusuf 'Afifi Interview; ROSE AL-YUSUF, 16 Feb 87)	14
OROCCO	
Minister of Commerce, Industry Discusses Role, Future of PME (Tahar Masmoudi Interview; LA VIE ECONOMIQUE, 13 Feb 87)	16
Commentary on Funding for Press Prescribed by New Budget (Zakya Daoud; LAMALIF, Feb 87)	27
UNISIA	
Premier Calls for Opposition Participation in Council (AL-QABAS, 10 Feb 87)	30

	Opposition Paper Assails Government University Policies (AL-RA'Y, 13 Feb 87)	31
	Socialist Democrats Issue Communique (AL-RA'Y, 13 Feb 87)	33
	National Guard Director Inaugurates Solar Energy Generators (LE TEMPS, 25 Dec 86)	35
	Proposed Defense Costs Student Protest Over Gabes Leftist Student Conference Lebanese Communist Party Newspaper Employee Suspended	37 37 37 37 37
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
IRAQ		
•	AL-THAWRAH on Iranian Violation of Peace Conditions (INA, 24 Feb 87)	38
	Iraqi Paper Urges Iran To Make Most of Bombing Halt (INA, 21 Feb 87)	39
ISRAEL		
	(10st methiali, ball kaviv, briving 20 10s of, the	40
	Spanish Government Blocking Bid Efforts (Jerusalem Domestic Service, 23 Feb 87)	47
	Religious 'Awakening' in West Bank Noted (Uri Nir; HA'ARETZ, 6 Mar 87)	48
	Foreign Ministry Appointments Exported Goods to Pakistan via India Population Demographics Projected Ethiopian Immigration Egyptian Journalists Boycott Military Attache to Canada Direct Dialing to Egypt Incomplete	53 53 54 54 54
JORDAN	en de la filipie de la companya de la filipie de la fi La filipie de la filipie d	
	Paper Sees Pollard Case Finishing Off U.S. Credibility (Editorial; AL-DUSTUR, 10 Mar 87)	57

Marian de la companya della companya della companya de la companya de la companya della companya

	Briefs Oil Exploration Agreement	56
SAUDI .	ARABIA	
	Yanbu' Refinery's Processing Capacity Discussed (AL-RIYAD, 10 Jan 87)	57
	New Plan for Development of Rural Communities (AL-RIYAD, 11 Jan 87)	58
SYRIA		
	Damascus Daily Views Shamir's U.S. Visit (Turki Saqr; AL-BA'TH, 19 Feb 87)	60
	Paper Hits Israeli Chemical Weapons 'Frenzied Campaign' (Ahmad Isma'il; AL-BA'TH, 25 Feb 87)	62
	Local Government Minister Describes Ministry Plans, Functions (Muhammad Harbah Interview; TISHRIN, 12 Feb 87)	64
	Drop in Water Quotas Negatively Affects Cotton Crop (TISHRIN, 17 Jan 87)	72
	SOUTH ASIA	
BANGLA	DESH	•
	Foreign Minister Briefs Press on Islamic Summit (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 2 Feb 87)	75
	Chowdhury Discusses Talks With India, Pakistan (THE NEW NATION, 12 Feb 87)	76
	Foreign Minister Meets Press on Departure for Manila (THE NEW NATION, 18 Feb 87)	77
	Papers Report on Visit of West Bengal Chief Minister (Various sources, various dates)	78
	Arrival News Conference Remarks on Departure	78 79
	Basu Remarks on Teesta Trial Run Refuted (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 4 Feb 87)	80
	Dhaka, Pakistan Sign Minutes on Trade Talks (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 13 Feb 87)	81
	Loan Agreement Signed With IFAD (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 31 Jan 87)	82

Fifth B	earter Protocol Signed With DPRK (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 30 Jan 87)	83
Papers	Report Developments in Trade, Foreign Loans (Various sources, various dates)	84
	(Various sources, various dates, viviality	
	Loan Interest Noted	84
	Deficit With India	84
	Export Thrust Fails, by Quamrul Islam Chowdhury	85
	Foreign Trade Deficit	86
Food Mi	nister Gives Statistics on Food Imports	
	(THE NEW NATION, 3 Feb 87)	87
Reporta	ge on Visit of Canadian Finance Minister	
	(Various sources, various dates)	88
	Commodity Aid Agreement	.88
	Formal, Informal Talks, by Quamrul Islam Chowdhury	89
	rolmal, informal facks, by Quametr 1919m enewence,	1.75
Ershad	Visit, Relations With PRC Discussed	
. •	(Quamrul Islam Chowdhury; HOLIDAY, 13 Feb 87)	90
Frehad	Heads Reorganization National Science Body	
Ersilau	(THE NEW NATION, 19 Feb 87)	92
Ershad	Addresses Nation on Bengali Martyrs' Day	0.7
	(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 21 Feb 87)	93
Speaker	Bars MP's From Criticizing President	17
•	(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 20 Feb 87)	94
Text of	Bill for Separation of Judiciary From Executive	
Text Of	(THE NEW NATION, 2-4 Feb 87)	95
Rill To	Drop Smugglers' Death Sentence Introduced	
DIII 10	(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 2 Feb 87)	104
Dawl fam	ent Moves To End Campus Disturbances	
railiam	(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 13 Feb 87)	105
Communi	st Party Changing Style, Operational Tactics (Hassan Abul Quashem; HOLIDAY, 13 Feb 87)	107
	(Hassan Abul Quasnem; Hollibai, 13 Feb 67)	10,
Irregul	arities in Public Sector Audits Told	
	(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 17 Feb 87)	109
Dross T	old of New Baksal Action Program	
TIESS I	(THE NEW NATION, 11 Feb 87)	111
Roopur	Nuclear Power Plant Said Under Consideration	112
	(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 9 Feb 87)	114

. 1. . 1.	(THE NEW NATION, 23 Feb 87)	
	Briefs	
	Isotope Production	
· ·	Muslim League Expulsion	
. 13	Commendat Bouldementary Croup	
6 13 1	USSR Jute Purchase	
T.	Mongolian Ambassador	
	Mauritius High Commissioner	
1.5	New ROK Ambassador	
	Ambassador to Ethiopia	
	New Ethioipan Envoy	
	Oil Exploration Panel	
	Japanese Aid	
	Janadal Executives	•
•	New Spanish Envoy	
is.	Communist Party Statement	
	en e	
AN		
	and the second of the second o	
	Alliance With Syria Facing Serious Problems	
	(Randa Takieddine; MEMO, 29 Dec 86)	
KIST	'AN CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACT	
	Briefs Communication of the Co	
	Briefs Bhutto Visit to Philippines Cancelled	
	Bhutto Visit to Philippines Cancelled	
	Bhutto Visit to Philippines Cancelled	
	Bhutto Visit to Philippines Cancelled	
	Bhutto Visit to Philippines Cancelled	
	Bhutto Visit to Philippines Cancelled	
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JPRS-NEA-87-039 1 APRIL 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

Contents

REGIONAI	L AFFAIRS	
	Achievements of Latest Arab Summit Questioned (Husayn Karim; AL-TADAMUN, 7-13 Feb 87)	1
	Gulf Federation Calls for Coordinated Petrochemicals Marketing (Ahmad al-Shamr; AL-RIYAD, 25 Jan 87)	4
	Arab Trade Conference Concludes Sessions in Riyadh (Sulayman al-Nasir; AL-RIYAD, 9 Feb 87)	6
	ARAB AFRICA	
EGYPT		
	AL-AHRAM Warns of Syrian Actions Against Palestinian Camps (Editorial; AL-AHRAM, 4 Mar 87)	12
	AL-AHRAM Reacts to Syria's Accusation of Mubarak (Editorial; AL-AHRAM, 3 Mar 87)	13
	Opposition Paper Criticizes Peres Cairo Visit (Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad; AL-AHALI, 25 Feb 87)	15
	Columnist Warns Against 'Intruders' on NDP Lists (Muhammad al-Hayawan; AL-JUMHURIYAH, 26 Feb 87)	16

	Briefs	
	Israeli Impediments to Peace	17
	Hydroelectric Cooperation with Sweden	17
	FRG Development Agreement	17
	Abu Ghazalah on Military Doctrine	18
		18
	Radio, TV Appointments	18
	Jabir Rizq Travel Prohibited	10
SUDAN		
	AL-AHRAM Comments on Premier Al-Sadiq Siddiq Al-Mahdi	10
	(Ahmad Baha' al-Din; AL-AHRAM, 18 Feb 87)	19
	Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi Interviewed by Cairo Weekly	00
	(al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Interview; AL-'ARAB, 15 Feb 87)	20
	Army Chief of Staff Discusses Efforts To Contain Rebels	
	('Abd-al-'Azim Siddig Muhammad Interview; AL-QABAS,	
	7 Feb 87)	33
	Public Works Minister, Head of State Council Member Profiled	
	(Nihal Shukri; AL-AHRAM, 9 Feb 87)	37
	m	
	Deputy Chairman of State Council Interviewed	
	(Idris al-Banna Interview; AL-MAJALLAH,	41
	25 Feb-3 Mar 87)	41
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
ISRAEL		
	Statistics on Arab Students in Israeli Universities	44
	(AL-WATAN, 12 Jan 87)	44
KUWAIT		
	Loan to Soviets Seen as Attempt To Diversify Investments	
	(AL-WATAN, 2 Feb 87)	49
	1985 Kuwaiti Representation in Workforce	
	(ARAB TIMES, 1 Mar 87)	50
	Agricultural Research Director Describes Development Plans	
	(Samirah 'Umar Interview; AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM,	
	21 Feb 87)	51

SAUDI ARABIA

Economic Aid to Lebanon Praised (AL-RIYAD, 15 Jan 87)	. 56
Trade, Industrial Relations Discussed with British Minister (Sulayman Nasir; AL-RIYAD, 17 Jan 87)	. 58
Briefs Job Sa'udization	62
YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC	
Saudi Arabia Sponsors Developmental Projects in YAR (Ahmad al-'Askar; AL-RIYAD, 14, 15 Jan 87)	63
Steps Taken To Promote Textile Industry (AL-THAWRAH, 11 Feb 87)	71
Briefs Participation in Security Conference UK Finances Forestation Research Participation in Arab Economic Council	73 73 73
SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHANISTAN	
Sayyaf, Hekmatyar, Khalis Discuss War ('Abd-Rabb-al-Rasul Sayyaf, et al Interview; AL-MUJTAMA', 10 Feb 87)	74
Ahmad Shah: Fighting To Establish Islamic Government (Ahmad Shah Interview; AL-MUJTAMA', 17 Feb 87)	81
IRAN	
Power Struggle Between Montazeri, Rafsanjani Groups Cited (KEYHAN, 12 Feb 87)	85
All Terrorist Groups Said Sponsored by Khomeyni Regime (KEYHAN, 12 Feb 87)	87
Emigre Paper Discusses Regime's 8-Year Balance-Sheet	89

PAKISTAN	
U.S. Aid Debate Viewed, Termed 'Interesting' (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 8 Mar 87)	92
Minister Answers Questions on Proposed AWACS Sale (MORNING NEWS, 3 Mar 87)	94
Commentary Lauds Arms Production Efforts (MORNING NEWS, 9 Mar 87)	95
Muslim League Leaders Talk About 1990 Elections (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 6 Mar 87)	97
Trade Agreements with USSR Signed (MORNING NEWS, 9 Mar 87)	98
Hungary Offers Assistance in Technical Education (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 8 Mar 87)	99
Jatoi Talks with Ambassadors (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 6 Mar 87)	100
Senate Plans To Take Up 9 Bills in Next Session (THE PAKISTAN TIMES , 9 Mar 87)	101
Sind Assembly Motion To Check Entry Into Sind Supported (MORNING NEWS, 9 Mar 87)	102
Sind Unemployment Figures Cited (MORNING NEWS, 6 Mar 87)	103
Private Sector Mineral Development To Be Encouraged (THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 6 Mar 87)	105
Commentary Examines Government-Press Relations, Problems (Shabbir Hussain; THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 5 Mar 87)	106
Briefs NWFP Assembly on Sind Resolution New Political Party JI, PPP Secret Pact Alleged	108 108 108 108
Private Sector Fertilizer Import	

tion of the production of the control of the production of the production of the control of the production of the control of t

JPRS-NEA-87-040 3 APRIL 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

REGIONAL	AFFAIRS	
	GCC States Seek To Coordinate Development Efforts (Ibrahim Ahmad; AL-ITTIHAD, 15 Feb 87)	1
	GCC Development Rate Exceeds Expectations (Ibrahim Ahmad; AL-ITTIHAD, 17 Feb 87)	5
	Rise in Steel Production Seen Insufficient (AL-ITTIHAD, 15 Feb 87)	7
	ARAB AFRICA	
EGYPT		
	Editorial Criticizes Al-Qadhdhafi (Editorial; AL-AHRAM, 9 Feb 87)	9
	Abu Ghazalah's Views on Egypt's Military (AL-AHRAM, 18 Feb 87)	11
	Reaction to Israeli Comments on Al-Ghazalah Speech (Ibrahim Sa'dah; AL-AKHBAR, 7 Feb 87)	13
,	Editorial on Disillusionment of Immigrants to Israel (AL-AHRAM, 12 Feb 87)	17
	Ibrahim Nafi' Discusses Referendum, Press Issues (Ibrahim Nafi'; AL-AHRAM, 13 Feb 87)	19

	Commentary on February Referendum (Ahmad Baha' el-Din; AL-AHRAM, 12 Feb 87)	22
	Sufi Leader Interviewed (Abu al-Wafa al-Taftazani Interview; AL-MUSAWWAR, 13 Feb 87)	23
	Youth Unemployment Discussed (Salah Muntasir; AL-AHRAM, 16 Feb 87)	27
SUDAN		
	Minister of Transportation Interviewed (Serafino Wani Interview; AKHIR SA'AH, 28 Jan 87)	29
TUNISIA		
	MDS Sends Letter to Sfar on Participation in Committee (AL-RA'Y, 20 Feb 87)	34
	Movement of Socialist Democrats Analyzes Economic Situation (Souhayr Belhassen, Sophie Bessis; JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE, Feb 87)	35
	Popular Unity Party Communique Discusses Palestinian Camps (AL-RA'Y, 20 Feb 87)	41
	Communist Party To Participate in Destourian Committee (AL-RA'Y, 20 Feb 87)	43
	Employment Office for Workers Abroad Described (Naceur Gharbi Interview; LE TEMPS, 26 Jan 87)	44
	Islamic Center for Commercial Development Annual Report (LE TEMPS, 19 Jan 87)	48
	ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
KUWAIT		
	Norwegian Tanker Hit by Iranian Missile (AL-QABAS, 5 Feb 87)	50
	Investments by Gulf Countries in Development Programs (AL-QABAS, 16 Feb 87)	52
	Monthly Per Capita Spending Figures (AL-ITTIHAD, 25 Jan 87)	53

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

	2.4 Billion Dirhams for 10-Year Hydroelectricity Projects (AL-ITTIHAD, 13 Jan 87)	54
	Violators of Labor Law Deported (Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD, 17 Jan 87)	55
	Private Sector Becomes Prominent Due to Drop in 0il Revenues (Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD, 17 Jan 87)	56
	Briefs	60
	Two Iranian Infiltrators Seizedgerg. The articles process and the second	00
	SOUTH ASIA	1.3
INDIA	n de la composition de la composition La composition de la	
	U.S. Offer to Pakistan, 'Sinister Implications' (K.N. Malik; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 12 Feb 87)	61
·	Report on Meeting of Indo-U.S. Panel Subcommission (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 14 Feb 87)	62
	Developments in Economic Relations With Soviet Union (Various sources, various dates)	63
	Tiwari at Roundtable Alexandra Month and Alexandra Miles Alexa	63 64
	Ships, Planes Offered Car Tieup Unlikely	64 65
	Agricultural Cooperation Pact Signed With USSR (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 14 Feb 87)	66
	Pakistan Excludes Indian Youth Contingent, Leaves 'Bad Taste' (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 22 Feb 87)	67
	UN Envoy Presses for Action Against South Africa (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 20 Feb 87)	69
. а	Papers Report Visit of Canadian External Affairs Minister (Various sources, various dates)	70
. · · · · ·	Speech at Envoy's Luncheon Warm Ties Again	70 71 72
	Press Conference Remarks Understanding on Cooperation	72

Press Reports on President's Visit to Jammu (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 17 Feb 87; THE TELEGRAPH,	70
18 Feb 87)	73
Speech at University Address to Civic Reception	73 73
Gandhi Calls for Struggle Against Fundamentalism (THE HINDU, 11 Feb 87)	75
Gandhi Declares Mizoram 'Full-Fledged State' (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 21 Feb 87)	76
Gandhi Accused of Not Keeping Poll Reform Promises (THE HINDU, 17 Feb 87)	77
Papers Report on Activities of New Defense Minister (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 15 Feb 87; THE HINDU, 13 Feb 87)	79
Lucknow Press Conference HINDU Analyst's Comment	79 80
New Process for Selecting Diplomatic Representatives (THE HINDU, 14 Feb 87)	81
Lok Dal Splits, Ajit Singh Expelled (THE TELEGRAPH, 22 Feb 87)	82
CPI-M Politburo Condemns Sikh Priests' Action (THE TELEGRAPH, 11 Feb 87)	83
New Communist Marxist Party Issues Manifesto (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 14 Feb 87)	84
International Chamber of Commerce Meets in Delhi (THE HINDU, 12, 14 Feb 87; PATRIOT, 12 Feb 87)	85
Gandhi Opening Speech More on Gandhi Speech Congress Conclusion, Appeals	85 86 86
GATT Director General Meets Press in Delhi (PATRIOT, 14 Feb 87)	88
Oil Ministry, OAPEC Delegates Hold Delhi Meeting (THE HINDU, 17 Feb 87; PATRIOT, 18 Feb 87)	89
First Day's Proceedings More Details Given	89 90

4	(PATRIOT, 17 Feb 87)	91
	Unfair Distribution of Resources Ridiculed (Bhanu Pratap Singh; RAVIVAR, 25-31 Jan 87)	92
	General: Country May Be Able To Counter AWACS (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 22 Feb 87)	95
1	Papers Report Developments in Defense Production (THE TELEGRAPH, 18 Feb 87; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 20 Feb 87)	96
	m 1 -1 Washings Cought	96
	Technology Machines Sought	97
	Setback to Navy Project	
	Orissa Villagers Resist Land Acquisition for Test Range (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 10 Feb 87)	98
* ,	Briefs	101
	Indo-Polish Trade	101
	Soviet Consul-Genral	101
	Gurkha Dissident	102
	CPI on Assam	102
	Biggest Bauxite Mine	102
	Superconducting Feat	102
	Sale to Hungary	103
	EEC Indian Study	103
	Indo-Bulgarian Cooperation	
IRAN		
	Khomeyni Representative Views Iraq on Bangkok Trip (SIAM RAT, 20 Feb 87)	104
	Scholar Discusses Practical Application of Islamic Morality (Hojjatoleslam Hadi Modarresi; AL-SHAHID, 31 Dec 86)	105

JPRS-NEA-87-041 6 APRIL 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

AKMENI	AN AFFAIRS	
	'Revolution Day' Foreign Guests Visit Prelacy (ALIK, 12 Feb 87)	1
	Prelate Visits Muslim Cemetery, Mosque, Offers Prayers (ALIK, 3 Feb 87)	3
	ARAB AFICA	
EGYPT		
	Columnist Views Nature of U.SIsraeli Relations (Muhsin Muhammad; AL-JUMHURIYAH, 4 Mar 87)	5
	AL-JUMHURIYAH Views Syrian Entry Into Lebanon (Editorial; AL-JUMHURIYAH, 1 Mar 86)	7
	Syrian Role in Lebanon 'Biased, Not Neutral' (Editorial; AL-AHRAM, 1 Mar 87)	8
	AL-AHRAM on Presence of Syrian Forces in Lebanon (MENA, 3 Mar 87)	9
	Israeli Radio Interviews Mustafa Khalil on Conference (Eldad Vard; Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World, 3 Mar 87)	10
	Mubarak's Assembly Referendum Seen on Strong Ground (Mahmud al-Tuhami; ROSE AL-YUSUF, 9 Feb 87)	12

	Briefs Journalist Association Elections Agreement With CSSR 'Democratic Coptic Party' Condemns Attacks	13 13 13 14
	Coptic Pope Receives Message ARAB EAST/ISRAEL	
ISRAEL		
	Ground Forces Budget, Training Increased (Joshua Brilliant; THE JERUSALEM POST, 18 Feb 87)	15
	Court Studying Yeshiva Students' Military Service Exemption (THE JERUSALEM POST, 12 Feb 87)	17
·	Yeshiva Phenomenon Viewed in Relation to IDF Service (Abraham Rabinovich; THE JERUSALEM POST, 20 Feb 87)	18
	Solar Energy Studied at Sde Boqer (Avraham Peleg; MA'ARIV, 22 Feb 87)	22
JORDAN	en e	
	Annual Energy Consumption Statistics (JORDAN TIMES, 21 Feb 87)	24
	Need for Electricity Discussed (Fahed Fanek; JORDAN TIMES, 22 Feb 87)	25
·	Effects of Higher Tariffs Viewed (Rula Nasr Darwazah; THE JERUSALEM STAR, 12 Feb 87)	27
	Unemployment, Expatriate Labor Problems Discussed (THE JERUSALEM STAR, 26 Feb 87)	28
	Censorship of Western Movies, 'Destructive,' 'Alien Ethics' (Osama El-Sherif; THE JERUSALEM STAR, 26 Feb 87)	31
1.	Briefs New Governors Appointed Central Bank Announces Higher Deposits Phosphate Trade With China Ambassador to Columbia Appointed	33 33 33 33
KUWAIT	n de la composition de la composition La composition de la	
	Decline in Aid to Foreign Nations (ARAB TIMES, 11 Mar 87)	34

OMAN

	(TIMES OF OMAN, 12 Mar 87)	35
	Trade Delegation Discusses Cooperation With Canada (TIMES OF OMAN, 4 Mar 87)	36
	Briefs	٠.
	Trade Agreement With Jordan	37 37
UNITED	ARAB EMIRATES	
	Briefs Ugandan Women Barred From Dubayy	38
	SOUTH ASIA	
INDIA		
	Gandhi Holds Strategy Session on Sri Lanka (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 28 Feb 87)	39
. •	Text of Indian Message, Sri Lanka Response (THE HINDU, 21 Feb 87)	40
	Press on Developments in Relations With Pakistan (THE HINDU, 23, 27 Feb 87; PATRIOT, 3 Mar 87)	41
	Outcome of Zia Visit	41
		42
-		42
	Reportage on Visit of Iranian Delegation (THE HINDU, various dates; PATRIOT, 18, 20 Feb 87)	44
4		44
		45
		45
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	45 46
	Gandhi Speaks to Congress Parliament Group (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 23 Feb 87)	47
	Text of President's Address to Parliament Opening (PATRIOT, 24 Feb 87)	48

Text of 1987-88 Union Budget, Minister's Remarks (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 1, 2 Mar 87)	56
Text of Budget Report on Press Conference	56 66
Cabinet Reshuffle Likely After Budget Session (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 25 Feb 87)	68
Report, Comment on Pre-Budget Economic Survey (THE HINDU, 25 Feb 87; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 25 Feb 87)	69
Summary of Contents 'RosierThan Warranted', by Praful Bidwai	69 73
CPI National Council Secretary Meets Press (PATRIOT, 20 Feb 87)	75
Report on Gandhi Preelection Visit to Mizoram (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 15 Feb 87)	76
Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh Become States (THE HINDU, 21 Feb 87)	77
Final Figures in Mizoram Elections Given (THE HINDU, 20 Feb 87)	78
Bahuguna Tells Press of Troubles in Lok Dal (THE STATESMAN, 27 Feb 87)	79
Split in Lok Dal Extending to Rajasthan (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 1 Mar 87)	80
Bill on Hindi Text of Constitution Introduced (THE STATESMAN, 2 Mar 87)	81
Misra Commission Reports on November 1984 Riots (Various sources, 24, 26 Feb 87)	82
Highlights of Report CPI Reaction Sikh Forum's Statement	82 83 83
Paper Summarizes 1987-88 Railway Budget (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 26 Feb 87)	85
Defense Minister Receives New Submarine for Navy (THE STATESMAN, 17 Feb 87)	88
Briefs CPI Supports GNLF	89

	Soviet-Aided Bauxite Mine Northeast Administration Industrial Production Index Trade Gap Narrows New Statehood Demand Electronics Panel		89 89 90 90 90
IRAN	No New IMF Loan		90
	Country's Population Approaches 50 M (IRNA, 3 Mar 87)		91
PAKIS1	ran		
	Slow Progress During Five-Year Plan (Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 9 Fe	•••••	93
	Government's Antisubversion Activiti (Editorial; JASARAT, 1 Feb 87		94
	Plan To Post Antidacoit Police Comma (NAWA-I-WAQT, 9 Feb 87)		96
	MQM Leader Defends Separate Muhajir (Mukhtar Aqil; JANG, 1 Feb 87		97
/9986			

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